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THE  
Fourteenth Annual Session  
OF THE  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
Directors of the Poor,  
OF THE  
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.  
HELD IN  
Uniontown, Pa., October 16th, 1888.

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EDWARD J. DONELLY, Official Stenographer,  
PITTSBURGH, PA.

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1888.





THE FOURTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF THE POOR  
OF THE  
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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FIRST SESSION.

OCTOBER 16th, 1888.

The fourteenth annual session of the Directors of the Poor, of the State of Pennsylvania, convened in the Opera House at Uniontown, Pennsylvania, at 10 A. M.

*Hon. S. H. French, President*, said: At a meeting of this Association held at Gettysburg, on October, 18th and 19th, 1887, a resolution was passed that when we adjourned we adjourned to meet at Uniontown, on the third Tuesday of October. Pursuant to this resolution we have met here to-day, and I would now call upon Rev. R. C. Wolf, Chaplain of Washington County Home, to lead us in prayer.

PRAYER:

Almighty and Benevolent Father, thou from whom cometh every good and perfect gift; look upon us and add Thy direction to this occasion. As we have assembled in this Convention to consider the interests of the poor and needy; wouldst Thou grant to lead our thoughts in those channels of wisdom which will better inform us concerning the happiness of our fellow creatures. We thank Thee what we, as a people, have been able to do in years past in alleviating the sufferings of humanity. Oh, wouldst Thou enable us to do more in the future. Oh, Thou who didst

preach the glad tidings of salvation to the poor, and command us to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and visit the sick ; look upon and bless this Convention. And finally, when life's duties have been performed receive us to Thyself above. Amen.

The President here introduced the Hon. Charles E. Boyle, Chief Justice-elect of Washington Territory, who delivered the following address of welcome :

At the instance of our Local Board of Poor Directors, and speaking, I believe for the entire community ; I bid you one and all, gentlemen, a cordial welcome, and wish for you a pleasant and profitable session of your Convention. We feel honored by your selection of this town for your deliberations on this occasion, and we sincerely hope that you will have no cause to regret it. It is our sincere desire that your labor here may result in the marked advancement of the great work in which you are engaged, and that personally, you may carry away with you none but agreeable recollections of your visit.

You have been selected by your several constituencies, gentlemen, for the discharge of a high and an important duty. The fact that you take the trouble and incur the expense to assemble from every part of the State once a year, to consult together with a view to the better discharge of that duty, shows that you duly appreciate its importance, and leads to the hope that it will be well and faithfully performed. These meetings cannot but result in good. You can here profit by the experience of each other. The facts here stated ; the views here expressed ; the advice here given, will all be for good, or at least will all be well intended. No director will here advise his fellows to do wrong, nor will any one commence a system or a practice which does not have his own approval as right and just and advisable. In the view that good only will be commended ; good must result from this Convention.

Every community has its poor. There has never been a community that did not have its poor. It is the first and the highest duty to take care of them. Various systems have been adopted for the discharge of that obligation ; some good ; some bad, but I believe all well intended. In Pennsylvania, the general system of care of the poor by overseers in poor districts, is gradually being



supplanted by the system which you represent of gathering them together in houses established for the purpose. This county was one of the first to build a poor-house. At times there have been complaints, and just complaint, respecting the management of it. But in the main, I believe, it has been well conducted, and that the purposes and design of its establishment have been fairly realized. Of course this manner of providing for the poor can reach only a comparatively small part of them—the extremely poor and the helpless and friendless. There must be many who might reasonably be entitled to public aid, who cannot get it under the poor-house system. Whether any system can be devised which will reach all the deserving poor, is one of the problems, in the solution of which I presume you are engaged. You owe important duties to the general public. You have been charged with the performance of a high public function and trust. These are to be performed with a view to the interest of the public—economically but not parsimoniously—faithfully and prudently, but not forgetful of the purposes for which the system you represent was created. Your chief care should be towards the unfortunates committed to your charge. The community recognizes its duty, to take care of them. It should do it, not grudgingly, but cheerfully and liberally. My belief is that it desires to do so. Certainly all humane and right-minded men want the poor well taken care of. You are the agents, the instruments for ministering to the poor. You should see that they are well housed; well clothed; well fed, but above all, humanely treated. Poverty which brings to the poor-house, is sometimes the result of crime and ill-spent life. It is always a misfortune. The subjects of it are sometimes to be blamed—they are always to be pitied. The aged, the sick, the imbecile, the helpless, whatever the cause of their condition, should be humanely cared for. It is your highest duty to see this done. It is to be accomplished by the selection of proper persons to have charge of them. Directors cannot be too careful of the person they select to place in charge of the poor. Not only skillful and thrifty managers, good farmers and good housekeepers, should be employed, but also men and women of gentle manners and kindly hearts. The coarse, the inhuman, the brutal, have no place in the care of the poor. These qualities are apt to grow and increase, when the helpless inmates of a poor-

house are the object on which they can be exercised. Such a person should not be kept about a poor-house for a day. For all the bad conduct of such a person, whose qualities are known to or suspected by a director, the director himself is morally responsible. I repeat, that while faithfully discharging your duty to the public, do not overlook your higher duty to the poor.

But, gentlemen, it is not for me to advise you. The fact of your selection for the office you fill, by those who know you, is an assurance that in their judgment you are men to whom care for unfortunate poor may be safely committed. The fact that you thus assemble, year after year, is a guaranty that you desire to properly and faithfully perform your duties.

I have merely alluded to these one or two matters because they occurred to me as being amongst the highest duties of Poor-house directors. I am merely here to welcome you to this Convention, and to repeat my hope, expressed at the outset, that your deliberations may be profitable, and in the direction of accomplishing the great purpose for which you have assembled. I again bid you welcome to this community. (Applause).

The President here called upon Mr. Price of Allegheny, to respond.

*Mr. Price:* Mr. Chairman, in behalf of the Directors and those assembled here I would accept the hospitality of this city, and promise you that we will endeavor to behave ourselves, and cause you to have no less good opinion of us when we leave here than you appear to have in our coming here this morning. We have come here for the purpose of not only benefiting ourselves, but benefiting our fellow men, and we hope that you, the citizens of Uniontown, will encourage us with your presence, and by your actions show that you appreciate the efforts in which we are engaged. We come here leaving our farms, our store-houses and our business; we come without compensation, and what is the interest of ourselves is also the interest of the poor that "we always have with us," and we always will have them with us. The object of the assembled forces is to provide means by which these poor may be cared for with the least expense to the taxpayer, and to the best interests of law. Our object is to alleviate the wants of those who are needy, and it is to our interest to come



together as often as we do, and we come at this time to Uniontown trusting that they may be able to do something to help us, and that we may be able to help them. Thanking you again for your kindly congratulations to us, we accept them. (Applause).

Mr. McGonnigle here offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the present officers continue during this session of the Association, and that the officers to be elected during this session take their seats immediately upon final adjournment, and continue during the entire session of the next annual meeting.

The resolution is seconded.

*Mr. Brumbaugh* (Blair): Speaking in regard to the resolution I would say that there are always changes in our poor-boards, and it is possible that we may make a list of officers who might not be able to be here. In this case, of course, the present presiding officer was a member of the Pittsburgh board, but he might not be able to be here at the next session. We may make a selection of officers who might not come to the next Convention on account of the changes. It has been our custom heretofore to select for the Convention our officers for the ensuing year, and we are very happy, however, to have the present officers to preside at this Convention. I think each Convention should select the officers for the ensuing Convention. It has been the custom the last two or three Conventions to have the officers to make the programme and arrange the business for the Convention. I will be opposed to making the selection for the next Convention under those circumstances, unless we secure those who will be here positively at the next Convention.

*Mr. McGonnigle*: What Mr. Brumbaugh says is very true, about the changes, but the very fact that we want to elect officers now to take hold of the work for the next meeting, prepare the programme, etc., so that they may have the work better in hand, and be prepared to handle the work of the Convention, and they should have their work properly mapped out and know what to do two or three months before the meeting takes place. As it is now, if we select the officers to-day the programme that somebody else has prepared is taken up by the Chair, and as a matter of course he would feel embarrassed, not understanding how things

were intended to be handled, and many times it does not run as smooth as it might. To avoid that sort of friction I thought best to have the officers elected at this meeting to take up the work for the coming meeting, so that they would be prepared to handle it; get up the programme, and matters of that kind. I have got up about my last programme, I will have to retire, and I want somebody to take my place.

*Mr. Colburn* (Somerset): The officers composing this Convention have had the matter in hand the past year. They have familiarized themselves with the wants and needs of the different poor districts, and they have prepared this programme, and are more familiar with it than a new set of officers coming in would be, and I think it just to this Convention that this board of officers remain as the officers of this Convention during its session here.

*Rev. Wolf*: I would offer as a suggestion by way of addition to the remarks of the Secretary, that three or four, or more Vice-Presidents be appointed, and in case the President is not able to attend, then the first on the list of Vice-Presidents might be substituted to make up this work. I would like to know what the Secretary thinks of that suggestion.

*Mr. McGonnigle*: We have four Vice-Presidents now.

*Rev. Wolf*: Wouldn't the first Vice-President take up that work?

*Mr. McGonnigle*: Yes.

*Rev. Wolf*: In case that is the understanding, I think Mr. McGonnigle's plan is the best plan. The trouble is new men get up a programme and don't know anything about it, and if these men have three or four months to exercise their minds upon a new programme, and select men to speak, then we would come to this Convention with a proper understanding of what we are to do, and the manner in which we are to perform our duties, and the Convention will be interesting to the delegates and also to the communities where we may assemble. I am heartily in favor of the resolution of the Secretary.

Resolution adopted.

*Mr. Roney*: I move a vote of thanks to Mr. Boyle for the way in which he has welcomed the Convention to Uniontown.



The motion was seconded and adopted.

*The President:* I do not want to take up your time in regard to anything I shall say, but after listening to the address of welcome and the reply, I wish to say to you that I thank you for the honor you have conferred upon me, but I would prefer to take my place in the audience and take my part in the discussions. I think the plan that the Secretary has proposed, if carried out, will be better for the Society. This is your meeting, and I hope you will enjoy it, and that you will get up whenever you desire and address the Convention. Let us make this meeting of the Association one of the best we have ever had.

Secretary will please call the roll, and the delegates present will please come forward and present their names to the Secretary in writing.

The following delegates responded to the roll:

ADAMS COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Aaron J. Rohrbaugh, *Director*. Edward M. Bender, *Clerk*. Daniel Spangler, *Steward*.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny County Home*—W. H. Guy, Frank Patterson, *Directors*. Joseph T. Richey; W. J. Glenn, *Supt*.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny City Home*. A. Alston and wife, Jas. Shipman, Jacob Wahl, *Directors*. Jno. L. Rolshouse, *Steward*. Wm. P. Hunker, *Clerk*. Wm. P. Price and wife, Robt. D. McGonnigle and wife.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Pittsburgh City Farm*—Hon. S. H. French and wife, George Hoffman, Hon. J. Martin Schaefer, Wm. Ramsey.

BEAVER COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Col. R. R. Walton, Capt. Thos. Reed, *Directors*. J. H. Ewing, *Steward*.

BEDFORD COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Jas. Barefoot, W. W. Phillips, Geo. Scheirer, *Directors*. Job S. Barefoot, *Steward*. Mrs. Job S. Barefoot, *Matron*. Thos. Armstrong, *Attorney*.

BLAIR COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Joseph Robinson, John Loudon, *Directors*. Philip Young, *Steward*. D. S. Brumbaugh, *Attorney*. Mrs. D. S. Brumbaugh.

CAMBRIA COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Jacob Shafer, *Director*. I. Lilly, *Steward*.

CARBON COUNTY—*Middle Coal Field Poor District Almshouse*—James McGinty, Daniel A. Furey, Thomas Clemans.

CHESTER COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—John S. Hope, J. Preston Thomas, *Directors*. C. Brinton Swisher, *Steward*. Mrs. Mary Swisher, *Matron*.

CRAWFORD COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Henry P. Marley, *Director*.

ERIE COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Henry Dunn, *Director*. Wm. M. Brown, *Superintendent*.

FAYETTE COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—A. B. Bryson, E. L. Shipley, Jas. Hardy, *Directors*. John D. Carr, *Steward*. Paoli S. Morrow, *Attorney*. John A. Batton, M. D.

FRANKLIN COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—John A. Witherspoon, L. D. C. Houser, *Directors*. Augustus H. Etter, *Steward*. John P. Seibert, *Physician*.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—James F. Thompson, S. P. Brumbaugh, Morris Gutshall, *Directors*. Jackson Lamberson and wife, *Steward and Matron*.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Hillside Farm Almshouse*—Frederick W. Berge.

LANCASTER COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Daniel Herr, John Brenner, Reuben W. Bard, Wm. Good, Jacob S. Strine and wife, George E. Worst and wife, Harry K. Meyers, Wm. N. Apple, E. H. Hershey, E. K. Brenner.

LEHIGH COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—A. P. Troxell, S. A. J. Kern.

MERCER COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Geo. Caldwell, J. S. Reznor.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—David H. Ross, *Attorney*.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Peter Edelman, *Director*. Herman Schmidt, *Steward*.

PERRY COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—John Garman, *Director*. P. G. Kell, *Steward*.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Blockley Almshouse*—Geo. Roney, *Supt*. Geo. Milliken.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Germantown Poorhouse*—John J. Crout and wife, Alexander P. Keyser and wife.

SOMERSET COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—John C. Barron, *Director*. G. F. Schmucker, L. C. Colborn, *Attorney*.

VENANGO COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Henry A. Culp, *Steward*. Jas. D. Patterson, *Director*.

WASHINGTON COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—John C. Sloan, Joseph Farquhar, Wm. B. McKennan, *Directors*. Rev. R. C. Wolf, *Chaplain*. E. G. Cundall, *Steward*. M. S. Pence, *Supt. Children's Home*.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Joseph D. Cope, Jacob Gettemy, Daniel Reamer, Samuel Galbraith.

PHILADELPHIA SOCIETY FOR ORGANIZING CHARITY—J. R. Sypher.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—*Philadelphia*—Mrs. Rodman Wharton, Mrs. A. T. Wilson, Mrs. C. H. Pemberton.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—*Allegheny County*—Mrs. Woodburn, Mrs. McRoberts, Mrs. A. Alston, Mrs. W. P. Price.

CHESTER COUNTY—CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—Lydia B. Walton, Sarah Ann Conrad.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—*Uniontown, Fayette Co.*—Mrs. S. E. Ewing, *Chairman*. Mrs. A. S. Milholland, Mrs. C. H. Beeson, Mrs. A. P. Bowie, *Secretary*. Mrs. A. D. Ewing, *Treasurer*.

COUNTY OPERATING COMMITTEE—Mrs. H. S. Rankin, Mrs. J. B. Ewing, Mrs. W. L. Robinson.

SOLDIERS' ORPHAN SCHOOL—*Uniontown*—Rev. John Watters.

*The President:* Rev. Watters from the Soldiers' Orphans School is present and would like to extend an invitation to the delegates:

*Rev. Watters:* Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention, it was said a long time ago by a heathen writer that: "Nothing is foreign to me which touches the interests of humanity;" and I feel, in speaking to you this morning, that I speak to those to whom a great interest in humanity is attached, and that the interests of humanity are not foreign to them. I have had the honor to be connected for about twenty years with one of the noblest charities of the State of Pennsylvania, a charity which has not been fully understood by many persons as it ought to have been. In order that the members of the Convention may be better acquainted with at least one of the schools, I extend a most hearty invitation to them to visit us at their convenience. The School is about five miles east of here on the Laurel Hill Ridge. It is a very pleasant drive over the mountains, and we are very anxious that the members of the Convention should visit the school and



inspect it, and be better acquainted with the school I represent, not only that, but that they should become acquainted with the Soldiers' Orphans' School of Pennsylvania. I hope the Convention will make arrangements at their convenience to go, and we will take them over. If they will let us know how many expect to go, and at what time, we will be glad to make the necessary arrangements, so that we can give some entertainment at the school, and it will also be necessary to serve a lunch as it will require more than half a day. So if you will let us know we will be very glad to have you visit us.

*Mr. Price:* I move that the invitation of the Superintendent of the Soldiers' Orphans' School be accepted.

Motion seconded and adopted.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Would it not be well to appoint a committee to see what time we can go, and what to do about notifying Mr. Watters.

*The President:* I would like to know if you intend to make provision to take us out.

*Rev. Watters:* We expect to make arrangements to take members of the Association out.

*Mr. Price:* I move that a committee of three be appointed to secure the names of the number who intend going out, and to report this evening at 8 o'clock.

Motion seconded and adopted.

*The President:* It has been suggested that we fix the time. What time shall we go?

*Mr. McGonnigle:* According to our programme we have no time to go except to-morrow afternoon.

*Mr. Etter:* I move we go out to the School immediately after dinner to-morrow.

Motion seconded.

*Mr. Ross:* Although the motion has been passed I would like to amend it by substituting Thursday morning, the first thing after breakfast.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* I think we can go to-morrow afternoon; instead of waiting over until Thursday. I know we can get

through our printed programme in time ; besides there is a large number that would like to go home to-morrow. As far as I am concerned I must be in Pittsburgh, if I have to walk. If you stay until Thursday morning you will have a small turnout. To-morrow afternoon seems the time best suited.

*Rev. Watters :* I would like to have as many go as possible.

*Mr. Ross :* Speaking about our experience at Gettysburg, and the way we put in our time there, I would suggest that you fix on something as a certainty. I for one do not see how we are going to get over this programme by noon ; I know there are several gentlemen here to discuss several questions at length.

*Mr. McGonnigle :* I haven't any doubt we will get through our programme by noon to-morrow. Possibly we may take up part of the programme to-day that is set down for to-morrow. As I said last year, when we make a programme we must live up to it, and I think we can finish this programme by to-morrow.

A vote being taken the motion prevailed.

*The President :* The committee on arrangement for going to the Orphans' Home are the following ; Messrs. Price, Roney and Etter.

*Mr. McGonnigle :* We have on our programme the reports from the counties. A number of questions were sent out to be answered, and I have a letter here from Mr. Biddle, saying that he could not come to this meeting for some reason or other, and he sent the reports to me at Pittsburgh, and I brought them with me.

His letter reads as follows :

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC CHARITIES,

OFFICE OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

1224 CHESTNUT ST., PHILADELPHIA, October 12, 1888.

MY DEAR MR. MCGONNIGLE :

I may not be able to reach Uniontown at the time of your meeting, and therefore enclose the reports received from the Poorhouses. Should more reach this office before the meeting they will be forwarded.

Yours truly,

CADWALADER BIDDLE.

R. D. MCGONNIGLE, ESQ.

P. S.—Please send your address in Uniontown, so that papers may be forwarded.

*Mr. McGonnigle :* I have no fault to find with Mr. Biddle, but I think that he being the recognized officer of the State Board of Charities, he should have been at this meeting. We have various Poor Districts that sent two, three or half a dozen delegates here, and it occurs to me that the Board of State Charities should have sent at least *one* delegate, and Mr. Biddle is the man. If the Board of State Charities want us to carry out any of their reforms it would be well for them to identify themselves with us, by sending a delegate. I do not say this derogatory to the Board, but I think if Mr. Biddle couldn't come, some one should have been sent to represent their Board. The reports sent to Mr. Biddle are here. In making up the programme I sent out circulars to quite a number of counties in the State, asking for suggestions as to what to insert in the programme, and among the replies I received was a request that a short verbal statement should be made by the representatives of each county in addition to the report, as to how many inmates they have, &c. That sort of a report would have a tendency to bring out other questions from other counties, and it would make it interesting, and for that reason I put it in the report. The reports should be followed by a short verbal statement. What is the wish of the Convention? Is it that these reports be printed without the verbal report, or shall we call the different counties, and shall some one representing each county make this short verbal statement? It would be well to have it understood as to how we will do this, for that reason I make this statement.

*Mr. Brumbaugh (Blair) :* I see from the form of the blank that it is about the same as we had last year. In reading over the reports of last year's Convention I find that everything concerning our County Homes and Almshouses is there, and everything that is essential seems to be in those reports. So I move I do away with the reading of the reports and go on with the other business of the Convention.

Motion seconded and adopted.



## REPORT OF ADAMS COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Adams County Alms-house and House of Employment.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Have no such laws.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? The new hospital has been completed; a new wash and bake house has been built.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? There were no able-bodied inmates supported during the winter.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? We are not troubled with such cases.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? Four.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? We have not entered any prosecutions during the year.
8. Give the number of children born in the house taken by the mother?
2. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 23. Feeble-minded, 6. Number of attendants, 1 male, 1 female. What wages paid per month? Male, \$12 per month; female, \$2 per week.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Bread, butter, meat and coffee. Dinner: Bread, meat, molasses, vegetables, and sometimes soup. Supper: Bread, apple-butter, cold meat, coffee, and sometimes soup.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Insane hospital, brick, two-stories, 20 rooms, heated by furnace, two bath rooms. Female infirmary, brick, 11 rooms, heated by stoves. Male infirmary, brick, 30 rooms, heated by furnaces. 1 bath room.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Soil, red gravel, 240 acres, no timber; 25 acres pasture, 2 acres garden; post and rail fences; both bars and gates are used. Fences around building are whitewashed.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Managed by a steward; worked by two farmers.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; \$100 per annum; term of office, 3 years; meet once a month; no resident directors.
15. How are supplies purchased, and by whom? Are purchased by directors in open market.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? No arrangement is made for extinguishing fires. Fire escapes are provided.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week?  $2\frac{1}{2}$  barrels. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Wheat grown on farm.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Made in institution.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? No entertainments.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No watchman is employed.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 1,386. Decreasing.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? No amendment.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Nothing.

#### REPORT OF ALLEGHENY CITY HOME.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Allegheny City Home.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Would refer you to last report.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? The entire water closet system has been renewed throughout the building; cost, \$6,500.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? None.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? No encouragement has been given.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 6.

7. What was done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by mother? 5. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? 1, by C. A. S.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? Average 93. Number of attendants? 3 male, 3 female. What wages paid per month? 2 received \$27.50; 4 received \$25.00.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Special roast is furnished three times a week for insane department and hospitals. Breakfast: Tea, coffee and bread and syrup, potatoes, boiled or fried, and meat for working men and women. Dinner: Tea, coffee, bread and meat, potatoes or cabbage, or rice or beans, barley, and all vegetables in season. Supper: Tea, coffee, bread and meat for working men and women; also dried apples or peaches, syrup, oat-meal or corn meal porridge.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Would refer you to former report.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Refer to last report.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Farm managed as in last report; general improvements.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 13; no salary; 2 years; last Thursday of each month; none remain at institution. Also, Home and Farm Committee meet once a month at institution.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Purchased quarterly by steward and committee; by contract.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? Never.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire plugs on each floor, and hose provided; also, fire escapes and buckets.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Gas.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 8. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Flour purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$4.40 per barrel; bought by contract.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Some are purchased, but principally made at the Home.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Concerts and other entertainments; would heartily recommend them.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? A watchman is employed at night. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? \$45.00 per month; reports to steward.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 169 tramps; not increasing any.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? Not anything in particular.



25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? It has been done in all cases where we could reach them.

Respectfully submitted, J. L. ROLSHOUSE.

#### REPORT OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOME.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Allegheny County Home.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? April 23d, 1852, and 1853.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? We have not built any new buildings.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? Have none.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Give them the grand bounce.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 11.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Prosecute all that we can find; 5; made 2 pay.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: meat, bread, molasses, coffee and vegetables of the season. Dinner: cabbage, potato or bean soup, bread, tea, corn, tomatoes, apple sauce, beets, onions, grapes, &c. Supper: fried potatoes, meat to some, bread and syrup, coffee or tea.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Two-story and mansard in front, with large hospital in rear; one side of building occupied by males and other by females.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? 205 acres of land; some of it hilly and a little of it rugged, some limestone ground and some bottom; board fences and gates: all whitewashed.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By superintendent with farmer.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; \$25 per annum; 3 years; once per month; no.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Superintendent.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? Not any.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escape provided as required by law? Fire plugs and hose and fire escapes.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.
19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? About 6. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Both. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Contract.
20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Some made and some purchased.
21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None, except Divine service.
22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? Yes, and consider it indispensable. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? \$40 per month; written report or personally to superintendent every morning.
23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? From October 1st, 1887, to October 1st, 1888, 2,995.

#### REPORT OF PITTSBURGH CITY FARM, ALLEGHENY CO.

1. What is the official name of your institution? City Farm and Almshouse, under control of Department of Charities.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Governed by same Acts of Assembly as other similar institutions in this State.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Only repairs.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? None that are able-bodied supposed to be admitted.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Refuse them admittance.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 22.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? We compel the girls to bring suits when practicable. In 8 cases, 4 suits were brought. In 2 of these, parties married and suits withdrawn, and the other two cases are now pending.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 10. The number that died? 12. The number deserted by mother? None.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 29; 10 feeble-minded. Number of attendants: 2 matrons and 1 hospital nurse; \$22; female. What wages paid per month? \$25 each.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: tea, coffee, bread, molasses, and meat for workingmen. Dinner: meat, soup, potatoes, bread, vegetables in season, and fish on Fridays. Supper: tea, coffee, bread, molasses, fruit in season, and mush and milk on Fridays, meat for workingmen, and cheese and crackers on Sundays.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? The farm and garden products are largely in excess of any former year.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? The late Board of Guardians of the Poor was, February 1, under the new city charter, superseded by the Department of Charities. The chief of this department is in daily attendance and personally or by orders, directs the management of the entire establishment.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By contract; by chief of Department of Public Charities.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmate except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? 12 Holloway's fire extinguishers and an abundance of Eureka hose to act from water plugs in the yards. There is an ample supply of water with a pressure of sixty-five pounds, and for fire escapes, an outside iron stairway with plenty of suitable ladders at easy command.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Gas, burned in Lonnyden pipes.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 14. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$4 per barrel; bought by contract.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Men's coats, vests and pants purchased. Women's dresses, etc., made in institution.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? Yes. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? \$30 per month; written report to superintendent every morning.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? No tramps have been cared for.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? When satisfied there was sufficient property or ability, suits were instituted against the parties. After hearings of the cases, the court has directed the defendants to pay stipulated sums of money, in weekly payments to the parties interested.

Respectfully submitted by

DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES,

F. H. EATON,  
Chief Clerk.

Pittsburgh, Oct. 9, 1888.



## REPORT OF KITTANNING POOR FARM, ARMSTRONG COUNTY.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Kittanning Poor Farm.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? No.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Bath and wash house.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? About 5. Light work about the house and farm.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Nothing.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? None.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Nothing.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. the number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. feeble-minded, 3. Number of attendants? 1 male, 1 female. What wages paid per month? \$6 female; \$18 male.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Good substantial diet. Breakfast; Tea and coffee, bread and butter, fresh and salt meat. Dinner: Bread, butter, meat and vegetables. Supper: Tea and coffee, mush and milk, oat meal, rice, and bread and butter.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? No changes, except the addition of bath and wash house.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? No addition.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Nothing since last report.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 2; one \$150, the other about \$300; 1 year; only occasionally; none remain.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Superintendent.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Buckets.
18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.
19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? About one-third barrel.

Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Wheat sold and flour purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Costs \$5 per barrel; in open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Some purchased and some made.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No; do not think it necessary. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? None.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 3.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? No.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Nothing.

J. J. BRUDY.

#### REPORT OF BEAVER COUNTY HOME.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Beaver County Home.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? New tin roof on main building.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Have been unable to accomplish much.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? A T building; the main used as the home; men in one end, women in other; the offset used as kitchen and dining room.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? No. acres, 160; about 30 in pasture, 3 in garden, no timber; post and board and rail gates; some are whitewashed.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; meet once a month, the last Friday; salary, \$3 a day for their services.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Steward.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? No light, except outside gas jets.

19. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? As much grown as can be. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Buy wheat if possible.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Purchased.

## REPORT OF BEDFORD COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Bedford County Almshouse.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Painting, plastering, laying floors, &c.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 8 male, 6 female; cutting wood, tending stock, sewing and knitting.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Plenty of work.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 1.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 1. The number that died? 1. Numbered indentured? 7.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 2 idiotic; 14 feeble-minded. Number of attendants? 1 male. What wages paid per month? \$15.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: bread, coffee, tea, apple-butter, molasses, meat, potatoes, fried. Dinner: meat, bread, butter, coffee and tea, potatoes, pot-pies, soups and vegetables, change every day. Supper: tea, coffee, bread, molasses, apple-butter, sometimes butter.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Length, 130 feet; width, 41 feet; rooms, 76; 12 foot story; 4 story high; ventilated by transoms and window; heated by steam; cross halls, 10 feet wide; 6 water closets; 6 bath rooms.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Sand and clay; acres, 175; timber, 15; garden, 2; board and worm gates; along the public road; farm lying in a valley, 18 miles north of Cumberland.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Steward; hired hand; lime and fertilizer.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; \$2 per day; 3 years; monthly; no.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Open market; by the steward.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Hose; force pump; yes.



18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.
19. How many barrels of flour used per week? 3. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Grown on farm.
20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Male, purchased; female, made.
22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No.
23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 127; furnished meals, 383; on the decline on account of labor before meals.
24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? None.
25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Nothing.

J. S. BAREFOOT,  
*Steward, Bedford Co.*

#### REPORT OF BERKS COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Berks County Almshouse.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Special Act of March 29, 1824.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Steam power, and apparatus for threshing and chopping was put up; the sick wards were furnished out with the latest improvements, spring beds, rocking chairs, center tables, etc.; the bake-house was renovated; painting and all other necessary repairs and improvements were made.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 41; 10.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Not to admit them.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 3.
7. What was done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Prosecuted generally; no prosecutions were entered last year.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 1. The number that died? 2.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? Idiotic, 25; feeble-minded, 23. Number of attendants? Under steward and wife; 2 female nurses and assistance of inmates. What wages paid per month? Under steward and wife, \$40.10 per month; 2 nurses, \$30 per month; inmates, \$13 per month.

10. What diet—table is furnished inmates? Breakfast: bread, coffee, meat and molasses. Dinner: soup four times a week, (potato, rice and vegetable soup) pot-pie, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, parsnips, beans, fish, beef, ham, tomatoes, etc. Supper: coffee, bread, meat, potatoes, mush, eggs, tea, biscuits and pies at intervals.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? There is a main building (brick) 120 x 90 feet, 2 story high, used as a nursery. The new hospital is a brick building, 277 feet in length, 60 feet wide, and 3 story high, this is used as a hospital and almshouse proper.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? The farm consists of 514 acres; it is an elevated ground, with a soil and sub-soil of clay, lime and sandstone; 90 acres in timber; about 50 acres in pasture, and about 5 acres in garden; post fences are used around the farm, iron fences along the main building and hospitals; bars and gates are used; fences around the garden yards are whitewashed.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? This farm is managed by the steward and his assistants.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; salary, \$200 per annum; term of office 3 years; they hold regular meetings at the institution once a month, when necessary they call special meetings; no resident director.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? In open market; by the directors or the steward.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician. Yes; through hay-making and harvest.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Have a hose carriage and hose which can be attached to the fire plugs in yard; also, a section of hose in each ward to be attached in the building; fire escapes at hospital building.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Gas.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 11 barrels. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Both. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Flour from \$4.75 to \$4.90 per barrel; bought in open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Made and purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Religious services every Sunday; singing and music once a week, and an annual pic-nic.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? Yes. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? Wages \$6 per month.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 2,167 tramps; vagrancy increasing.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? All persons that are liable, are obliged to pay for the maintenance of a relative if brought to the poor house.

### REPORT OF BLAIR COUNTY ALMSHOUSE AND HOUSE OF EMPLOYMENT.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Blair County Almshouse and House of Employment.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Act of Assembly April 1, 1878.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Registers and inside ventilators put in all through house.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 10; general farm and house work.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Not to admit them, and give them plenty of work to perform if admitted.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? One case only.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? No prosecutions; one case now in court; endeavor to have it settled by defendant.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 1. Number indentured? 5.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? Idiotic, 1. Feeble-minded, 1. Number of attendants? None.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Bread, butter, potatoes, coffee, molasses; working persons, meat, beets, pickles, mush fried occasionally. Dinner: Bread, boiled beef, pork, potatoes, cabbage, turnips, beans, milk regularly, rice, molasses always, butter, apple-butter, dumplings, apple sauce, vegetable soup, mashed potatoes, chicken sometimes. Supper: Potatoes, bread, cold meats, cold slaw, sliced cucumbers, onions, coffee, molasses, butter, fried eggs occasionally, pie and cake on Sunday evenings. Christmas, Fourth of July and Thanksgiving days, they are treated with turkey, chicken; a general treat, same as set for steward's family on these days.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed; the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By steward and boss farmer; post fences made.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them re-



main at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; \$100 each; 3 years each; once a month, in the almshouse. None of them remain at almshouse as resident directors.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By directors; steward purchases articles not supplied by directors.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire escapes are provided as by law.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? By oil lamps.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 2 barrels per week. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Wheat grown on farm. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? None purchased.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Purchased largely; women's and children's clothing, with some shirts and underwear for adults made.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None, except music by organ, and public worship.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No; it might be proper to have one.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 165; decreasing in our county. People are beginning to understand the "tramp" better, and treat him accordingly.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? That there should be a general poor law for the Commonwealth; salaries for officers, stewards, physicians, attorneys, clerks should receive uniform salaries all over the State, according to the population of the county; State to care for all indigent insane at their own expense; that better provisions be made for medical care of out-door poor; that the directors have the power to admit in almshouses without commitment by justice.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? In every case this has been done when known, and has succeeded; in several cases suit has been instituted to compel them to support.

PHILIP YOUNG, *Steward.*

MRS. YOUNG, *Matron.*

October 1, 1888.

## REPORT OF BRADFORD COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Bradford County Almshouse.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Law of 1879.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Very little.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 8; cutting wood and sawlogs on the farm.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 2.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? We have prosecuted when we could reach parties; 2; good.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by mother? 2. The number deserted by mother? 1. Number indentured? 2.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 44. Idiotic, 4. Feeble-minded, 11. Number of attendants? 1 male, 1 female. What wages paid per month? \$650 a year.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Potatoes, bread, coffee and tea, butter, gravy. Dinner: Vegetables, meat, bread, molasses, milk, with sauce, or rice twice per week. Supper: Bread, butter, warm potatoes, sauce, tea and milk; diet is varied by giving fish and fruit in their season.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Three-story brick, with basement, large halls, well ventilated rooms; insane department separate from main building.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Clay sub-soil; 267 acres; 135 creek flats; 60 acres of timber, 70 pasture, 2 garden.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Mixed farming, building new fences, grading, etc.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? The three county commissioners are poor directors; term, 3 years; once per month; no salary; \$2 a day and expenses.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By committee, in bulk.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Hose can be attached to water pipe or tanks; inside stairways.
18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.
19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 3 and 4. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? We grow about one-third of supply. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$4.50 per barrel; contract.
20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Made, except coats for men.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Music and ball play, etc.; out-door sports for men.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 7; decreasing.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? We have been able to compel all cases where parties were liable, by citing them before the court.

ED. W. PUTNAM,  
*Steward.*

### REPORT OF BUCKS COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Bucks County Almshouse.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Very little.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? The males are employed breaking stone for turnpike. Females, sewing and general housework.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Make them work same as if paid.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 1.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None. If I see any improper intimacy, I discharge the male at once.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. The number that died? 1. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None.  $\frac{2}{3}$  feeble-minded. Number of attendants? 1 male; 1 female. What wages paid per month? \$7.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Coffee, tea, meat, potatoes, bread, and all kind of vegetables that are raised. (Fridays, fish and butter.)

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Hospital in good condition. The farm house was built in 1809, and is somewhat out of repair.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? 361 acres; scarcely any timber; gravelly soil, sub-soil, blue rock; 70 acres of pasture; 4 acres garden; wood and wire fences; bars and gates; whitewashed around buildings.



13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? The farm is managed by steward, with the advice and direction of directors.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; salary, \$60 per annum: term, 3 years; meet fourth Tuesday; no resident directors.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By the steward.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No; do not keep it.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire escapes.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? We buy our bread by contract.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Partly made and partly purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.

22. Do you employ a watchman, at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No; we think not necessary.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? About 450; decreasing.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? That a justice of the peace should not be allowed to give an order on one's own affidavit.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? When liable we make them pay.

JOHN H. MYERS,

*Steward.*

#### REPORT OF CARBON COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Middle Coal Field Poor House.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Yes.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Yes.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? We have none that we consider able-bodied. All the work we could get out of them was opening roads or shoveling snow.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Nothing.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 5.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Nothing.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 1. The number that died? 1. The number deserted by mother? 1. Number indentured? 1.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 16 here and 52 at Danville. Number of attendants? 2 male; 1 female. What wages paid per month. \$10 and board.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? No regular diet table. Breakfast: bread, butter, cold meat, potatoes, milk, tea or coffee. Dinner: potatoes, meat, vegetables, rice and pudding. Supper: tea, bread, butter, cold meat, milk, stewed apples.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Main building 4 stories high, 106 x 40 feet, with boiler house and all necessary outbuildings; hospital building 4 stories high, 40 x 100.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? 375 acres; red shale; 10 in timber; 365 under cultivation; all kinds, rail, board, stump, barb wire.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Managed by the steward.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors. 3 directors; \$200; 3 years; once a month; no.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By the directors and steward.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? None in the main building; in the hospital building we have hose and fire escapes.
18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Gas.
19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 3 per week. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$4.65, the market price. Not bought on contract.
20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Some made and some purchased.
21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.
22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? Yes. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations

have been adopted for reports, etc.? None; it is assigned to one of the inmates to watch.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 785 tramps; about the same.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Nothing.

#### REPORT OF CHESTER COUNTY HOME.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Chester County Home.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Hog house, carpenter shop, slaughter house, ice house, shed over portion of barnyard.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? None; tramps supported temporarily.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Don't admit them.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? Six.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? The father is prosecuted when known; three cases were prosecuted.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 3. The number that died? 2 stillborn. The number deserted by mother? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. 3 idiotic; 26 feeble-minded. Number of attendants? 1 male, 2 female. What wages paid per month? Female, \$8, male, \$20.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Plain and wholesome food. Breakfast: Beefsteak and gravy, bread and coffee. Dinner: one vegetable, stewed or roasted meat, sometimes tea and pickles. Supper: Bread, butter or fruit, milk and tea, different kinds of fruits are given in their seasons.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? The main building three-story brick with two wings, capacity 350 inmates; two separate stone and brick buildings for colored inmates.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? The farm lies in the valley of the Brandywine, running back to top of divide; limestone soil; contains 365 acres, 20 in timber, 4 in garden; post and rail fence; bars and gates, gates painted.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By the steward with the advice and direction of the directors.



14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; 1 elected annually; meet first and third Wednesday of each month; salary, three dollars per day and mileage; no resident director.

15. How are supplies purchased, and by whom? In open market by steward or directors.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? Never.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire escapes; buckets filled with water set on shelves on each corridor.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Headlight oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 8. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Both. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? 4 dollars; on open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Mostly made in the institution, some bought.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? The ladies of West Chester gives them a pic-nic twice a year, or any other entertainment available.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? Do not think it necessary.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 1,472 tramps; seem to be increasing.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? For three or four counties to join together and build a house of correction. Homes for the respectable poor is not the place to discipline the bad.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? When the inmate has relatives liable for their support, efforts are made to collect expenses from them, generally with success.

#### REPORT OF LOCK HAVEN POOR HOUSE, CLINTON CO.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Lock Haven Poor House.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? April and May, 1888; governed by Poor Committees of Councils.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? There has in class of inmates.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? From 10 to 20; 6 to 8 males and 4 to 12 females.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? Can't, as I have only been overseer since August 7th, 1888, and hearsay is too conflicting.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Can't say, as none has been born in the last year.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? 1 adopted, 3 years old.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Feeble-minded, none. Number of attendants? 1 male; 1 female. What wages paid per month? \$8.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Meat, potatoes, coffee, bread, butter, syrup, onions, &c. Dinner: Meat, potatoes, bread, butter, tomatoes, cabbage, turnips, apple and other sauces at times, and other vegetables. Supper: Cold meat, potatoes, coffee or tea, bread, butter, onions, &c.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Frame with 5 rooms on first floor, 6 and hall on second; building 30x60, with outbuildings, office, building for tramps to sleep in with 4 rooms, house for tools, &c.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? 2 lots; fences and gates whitewashed.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 1 overseer, at house morning and evening from 1 to 2 hours each visit; salary, \$35 per month; term of office, one year; appointed by mayor, confirmed by select council.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Clerk of common council; part by contract and part as best that can be.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? It is not, except ordered by physician.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? None necessary don't think.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Coal oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? Since August 7th,  $\frac{1}{2}$  barrel. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Flour purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$5; in open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? It is purchased.

22. Do you employ a watchman, at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? I think not; do not. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? Report to councils monthly.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? As reported to me, 25; about the same.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? I don't think much of buying goods for a city of this size by contract, my opinion is where you purchase by contract, should be from first hands, for second takes too much watching, and then they will beat you.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Have none of that kind.

This report is made by hearsay.

LEWIS WALTERS,  
*Overseer of Poor of Lock Haven, Pa.*

#### REPORT OF BLOOM POOR DISTRICT, COLUMBIA COUNTY.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Bloom Poor District.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Yes; law passed in 1869 similar to Luzerne County.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Yes.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? Had no able-bodied men or women.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? None.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? No one born.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, 2. Feeble-minded, none. Number of attendants? 1 male; 1 female. What wages paid per month? \$58.33.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Good substantial diet, coffee and meat. Dinner: Ditto, meat, no coffee. Supper: No meat, tea or coffee.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Brick, covered with slate and tin, 32 x 36; kitchen attached, 22 x 22.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Good table land; limestone; 100 acres; 86 under cultivation; post and board fence, part whitewashed.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By steward; a new bakehouse.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; \$100 each per annum, 3



years, all elected at one time; the last Saturday each month at the almshouse; none remain as resident directors.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By the steward.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? There is a reservoir with pressure to cover the houses; no fire escapes.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Grown on farm.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No watchman; small concern like this hardly proper.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? No tramps cared for in the almshouse.

By direction of the Directors,

L. B. REEPERT, *Secretary.*

#### REPORT OF CRAWFORD COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Crawford County Infirmary.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? 1851.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? None.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 19; employment of a general nature.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Those able-bodied persons who winter in almshouses are brought there by drink, and I know of no way to stop drinking, but to stop the manufacture of intoxicating drinks.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 4.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Fathers prosecuted if they are worth anything; 1 father arrested; bill ignored.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 2.  
The number that died? 1.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? Idiotic, 2; several feeble-minded. Number of attendants? Inmates are detailed as attendants.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? 3 substantial meals furnished every day in the year. Breakfast: meat, bread, potatoes either baked or fried, butter for all in summer, and for the sick only in winter, syrup, tea, coffee and milk. Dinner: meat, potatoes, boiled vegetables of all kinds in their season, pickles, soups, bread, tea and milk, pie on Sunday, ginger and coffee cake. Supper: bread and butter through summer season for all, and in winter for sick only; syrup or apple sauce furnished when no butter is furnished, cookies twice a week, tea and milk.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? 3-story brick building 45x68 feet, with wing 2½ stories high, 42x90 feet, with kitchen in rear 22x36 feet. The rooms are generally large.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? The land is good, partly bottom land and partly rolling or high land; 236 acres; 10 acres timber; 60 acres pasture; 3 acres garden; rail and board fences; bars and gates; fences not whitewashed.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Farm managed by superintendent and hired man.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; \$100; 3 years; average about once a month; no.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By the superintendent wherever he can buy cheapest.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire extinguishers placed in the halls for use in case of fire; yes.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? About 7 barrels. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? We grow about from 4 to 6 hundred bushels, the balance purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? About \$4; purchased in open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Women's clothing made in house and men's underwear.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No; perhaps it would be proper to have one. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? None.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 247; it is increasing in winter.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? None.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Whenever we find persons liable for, and able to support paupers we compel them to do so.

ANDREW J. McQUISTON,

*Sept. 18, 1888.*

*Supt. Crawford County Infirmary.*

#### REPORT OF DELAWARE COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Delaware County Home.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? We have done away with the wooden bedsteads, and have got wrought iron single ones.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? We do not harbor any able-bodied persons, and have no employment to give them.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? A positive refusal to admit them.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 3.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? 1.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 2. the number that died? 1. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, 2; feeble-minded, 27. Number of attendants? 1 male, 1 female. What wages paid per month? \$16 and \$10.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: bread and sometimes butter and coffee. Dinner: soups, meat and vegetables, stewed fruits, boiled rice, fish on Fridays. Supper: bread and tea.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? 4 sitting rooms, viz: 1 day room for white men, 1 for colored men; 1 for white women, 1 for colored women, and 16 large bedrooms, in main building, and 24 bedrooms in old men and women's apartments.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Pleasantly situated and productive ground; rolling clay loam with clay sub-soil; 103 acres; none in timber; 79 acres in pasture; 4 acres in garden; fences, board, post and rail; bars and gates; fences partly whitewashed.



13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By a farmer with the help of the inmates.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; salary, \$1.50 per day when attending to public business; meet during spring and summer months on the first and third Monday in each month, and during winter and late fall on every Monday; do not remain at almshouse; term of office, 3 years.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By bids with samples, and by the members of the board.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? Emphatically no.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire buckets on every story, hose and water pipe, water tanks in upper story of the building with a capacity of 1,200 gallons.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour used per week? About 5 barrels. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Purchased. We raise about 50 barrels on the farm. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? By contract, and by sample, and the average cost is about \$4.40 per barrel.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Women's clothing made, and the men's shoes repaired in the building; the men's are purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? A Christmas Eve entertainment is always given.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? Do not; don't think it necessary. If one is employed what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? None.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 3,728 supplied with lodgings; increasing considerably.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? Are not well enough acquainted with the said laws to offer any suggestions to them.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? We require board paid for inmates in all cases where the parties are able to pay.

WILLIAM EVES,

*Steward, Delaware County Home, Lima, Pa.*

## REPORT OF ERIE COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Erie County Almshouse.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Act of General Assembly, 8th day of April, 1833.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Not any of particular note.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? Possibly 6 or 7 males and 3 or 4 females; they done the general work out and in doors of the institution.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? None.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? 2 prosecutions, and both awaiting results.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? Not any. The number that died? Not any. The number deserted by mother? Not any. Number indentured? Not any.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 15. Idiotic, 3. Feeble-minded, 20. Number of attendants? No male attendants, one female. What wages paid per month? \$20.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Special for hospital departments; also for the female insane, and old lady table.—physician's orders. Breakfast: (Meats,) usually beef, potatoes, milk, gravy, beef broth, tea or coffee, bread, etc. Dinner: Beef or pork, usually beef, potatoes, vegetable soup, beans, green garden vegetables, peas, string beans, tomatoes, sweet potatoes, in their season, rice, pearl barley, pie, doughnuts, cookies for Sundays, fruit, apples, plenty, grapes. Supper: Bread, milk, coffee or tea. For the working hands on the farm, special diet of substantial food. Paid attendants always present during meal time. The cooking is done by male cooks, (inmates,) etc.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Brick structure, stone basement under entire building, surmounted in middle, above main entrance, with dome. There is an east and west wing, making main building 190 feet long, 87 feet wide, four-story high. To the north extends a wing 85 feet in length, 35 feet in width. The basement used for heating apparatus, boilers, etc. First floor, general dining room; second floor, insane department for females; third floor, hospital apartment for male department. Entire building is heated by steam, lit by gas; gas is used to quite an extent for fuel.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Farm lays nearly square; gravel and black walnut bottom land and loam mixed; have no timber; 141 acres in the farm; land lays quite level, or very slightly rolling; we have six acres garden; entire farm under cultivation; wire and board fences, painted, etc.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Under su-

pervision of the superintendent; one paid man to lead off and manage the work. Cultivated entirely in grain crops, by aid of inmates.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? We have 3 directors, 1 for the city 2 for the county; city director receives \$2.25 per day; the 2 county directors receive each \$50 per annum; the term of office is 3 years; we have no almshouse residence director; the Board meets at almshouse the second Tuesday in each month.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Supplies are purchased by the superintendent of the home, in open market.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No; never.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? 500 barrel water tank is placed in attic main building; a 2½ inch water main from this tank to cellar, and on each floor a 2½ inch linen hose attached that will reach every apartment in the house.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? By gas.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? About 7 barrels per week. About one-third of this flour is usually from wheat on the farm; the balance is purchased at an expense of from \$4 to \$4.50 per barrel. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? See above. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? The wearing apparel is made in the home, except coats, pantaloons and vests.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? We have had some exhibitions, home talent, etc., music, declamations, elocution, &c., assisted occasionally by outside talent.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? We have no paid watch; all hallways are lit by gas during the night; we have some careful and trusty inmates instructed to keep an oversight on each floor and department.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? We have kept 137 tramps over night from October 1st, 1887, to October 1st, 1888, inclusive.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? See last year's report of Association.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Parties liable for support of others, when able, are required to pay a reasonable amount for their support.

Very respectfully,

WM. M. BROWN,

*Sup't Erie County Almshouse, Pa.*



## REPORT OF FAYETTE COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Poor and House of Employment.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Yes; all our laws are special. Have not the dates.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Yes; walls kalsomined, floors painted, and many other improvements.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? None that would come under that head.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? A hard question to answer as long as the law is such that they can be sent there; revise the poor laws.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 1.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Prosecute every case; the results were not satisfactory; they did not provide for the child.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by mother? 1. Number indentured? All our children are taken in charge by the Children's Aid Society.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, 2. Feeble-minded, 3. Number of attendants? 2 males, 1 female. What wages paid per month? None; inmates acts.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Bread, butter, syrup, fried potatoes, fried mush, bacon, coffee, with milk and sugar. Dinner: Fresh beef, four times a week, pork, twice a week, fish, once a week, potatoes, cabbage, parsnips, and all vegetables in season, with bread and tea, or milk. Supper: Bread and tea, molasses, cold meat, cheese, stewed onions, etc.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? A large four-story brick building, nearly new, 200 feet long by 150 feet deep, with two wings 60 feet deep, all containing 175 rooms; a full description was given in the 3d report of Committee on Lunacy.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Farm is of rich limestone ground, containing about 129 acres; about 80 acres under cultivation, 5 acres in garden, balance pasture and timber; board fences, gates, some whitewashed; we raise all the vegetables we use in the house, and sometimes sell some.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Under direction of steward.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them re-

main at the almshouse as resident directors? Three directors; \$3 per day for each day employed, full salary not to exceed \$100 per year; term 3 years; meet once per month; none remain at the almshouse.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? In open market, at wholesale mostly, by the steward.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No; and he very seldom orders any.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire hose and hand grenades. Iron fire escapes on outside of the building, best made.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Gas.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 15 to 18. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Both; we grow some wheat, but not enough. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? About \$4.25 to \$5.00.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? All women's clothing, and men's shirts and underclothing are made in the house.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None provided.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? We usually employ one in winter; inmate acts. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? No fixed salary; he reports to steward every morning.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? Very few come this way and the real tramp we don't keep at all.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? Revise the whole law.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? We generally make them do so.

JNO. D. CARR,

*Steward.*

## REPORT OF FRANKLIN COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Franklin County Almshouse.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Governed by the general law.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? None in almshouse proper.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 125;  $\frac{2}{3}$  males and  $\frac{1}{3}$  females; employment was general house and farm work.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Elect Harrison and Morton.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? None.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. The number that died? 1. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? Six.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 15. Idiotic, none; feeble-minded, 10. Number of attendants? 1 male, 1 female. What wages paid per month? \$5 per month each.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Bread, coffee, syrup, cold meats, potatoes and eggs. Dinner: Meats and vegetables, soups, &c. Supper: Same as for breakfast.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Previously described.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Previously described.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Managed by steward; new fences, henery, &c.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; each paid \$100 and mileage; 3 years; once per month, and once in middle of month; no.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By steward, in open market.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire escapes are provided.
18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.
19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 5 barrels. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Both. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Varies; purchased in open market.
20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Made by inmates.
21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Religious services once a week, and other entertainments given.
22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? Do not, but it would be proper so to do.



23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? About 400; seems to be decreasing.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? None.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Have been cutting our out-door poor list wherever possible.

A. H. ETTER,

*Steward.*

### REPORT OF GREENE COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Greene County Almshouse.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? None.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Yes; a new kitchen, wash-house and bake-house is building.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? Males and females 4; work of the farm and house.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Don't keep them.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? None.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Prosecute according to law; prosecutions last year, none.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, 9; feeble-minded, 20. Number of attendants? None.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Different varieties. Breakfast: Coffee, bread, and butters of different varieties, and fried potatoes, and fried meat and molasses. Dinner: Coffee, bread and butter, beef and soups of different kinds. Supper: Tea or coffee, bread and butters of different kinds, and meat, cake or pie on Sundays.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By the steward; improvements in fencing.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? Number of directors, 3; salary, \$1.50 per day; term of office, 3 years; meets first Monday and Tuesday of each month, and oftener if required.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By the steward or directors; by private contracts.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? None.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 2. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Grown and purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? By contracts; \$4.30 per barrel.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Partly made and partly purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No, we don't think it necessary to have watchman.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? None admitted; vagrancy decreasing.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present poor laws? None.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Nothing.

#### REPORT OF HUNTINGDON COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Huntingdon County Almshouse.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? 1850, (incorporating Act.)

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Yes; a portico, new floor, new blinds, sewing machine.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? None.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Put them to hard labor—limestone quarry.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 2.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 2. The number that died? 1. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? Feeble-minded, 2. Number of attendants? 2 male, 2 female. What wages paid per month? \$6.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: bread, fried potatoes, butter, apple-butter, molasses, those who work get meat, coffee. Dinner: meat, cabbage, potatoes, beans, rice, vegetables in season, milk. Supper: meat, bread, potatoes, spreads (as above) and coffee.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? The principal building is 2-story brick building, having 11 rooms on second floor, 13 rooms on first floor, 13 rooms on basement. There is a hospital building 40 by 25 feet, containing 4 rooms.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? About 40 acres hills, used for pasturage; limestone; 160 acres; 36 of timber; post and rail around farm and pale fence around garden.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? The directors and steward manage the farm.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; \$2 per day; 3 years; the first Tuesday of each month; none remain or reside at the almshouse.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Directors and steward.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire Grenades; ladders for escapes.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 2 barrels. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Grown on farm?

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Principally purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? Steward is considered to keep a watchful eye over the house.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 41; decreasing.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? None.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Suits will be brought against all persons liable for support of others to provide for them, if such support is refused.



## REPORT OF BLAKELY POOR HOUSE, LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

1. What is the official name of your institution? The Blakely Poor House.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? No.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? None here.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? I do not know; the directors attend to that.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 1.
7. What was done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Nothing to my knowledge; none.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, None; feeble-minded, 5. Number of attendants? 1 male, none female. What wages paid per month? \$18.
10. What diet—table is furnished inmates? Have no regular bill of fare; the sick have extra food.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? The men's house is a 1½ story house 20 x 30 feet, with a 1-story addition 24 x 30 feet, containing sitting room, bath room and 11 bedrooms. The female apartments are on the second story of additions to superintendent's house.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? The farm consists of 86 acres of land; soil, a loam with plenty of stone; about one-half of farm in pasture; garden, 1 acre; mostly wall with some board and some rail fence; bars and gates; not whitewashed.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? The usual rotation of crops common to this section.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; \$100; 3 years; once a month; no.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By the quantity, and by the superintendent.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician. No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? None; no fire escapes provided, and I do not think any are needed.
18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Kerosene.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 25 barrels per year. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$4.30 in open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? No; do not think it necessary.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? None.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? None.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? I do not know; as this poor house is located 6 miles from its district where the directors reside, and who attend to all such matters.

J. N. THACHER,

*Green Grove, Pa., Sept. 17, 1888.*

*Supt. Blakely Poor House.*

#### REPORT OF HILLSIDE HOME, LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Hillside Home, Lackawanna County.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? The east wing of the insane asylum and administrative building now being erected at a cost of \$55,000.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? The increase in number of inmates during the winter comes largely from old men who find it difficult to get work about the mines during the winter. No special work furnished during the winter; those who are able find employment in and about the building in caring for the infirm and helpless.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? The number not large; nothing done specially to prevent those coming who make application.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 11.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Nothing done.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 10. The number that died? 1. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? Average 75. Idiotic, 4. Feeble-minded, 1. Number of attendants? 4 males; 4 females. What wages paid per month? \$25 and \$16 per month.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Coffee, tea, bread, fried potatoes. Sample of one week in September: Dinner—Monday: Meat stew, potatoes, bread; Supper: Bread, tomatoes, tea. Tuesday—Dinner: Pork, cabbage, potatoes, bread; Supper: Mush and milk, bread, tea. Wednesday—Dinner: Corned beef, rutabagas, potatoes, bread; Supper: Bread, bread pudding, tea. Thursday—Dinner: Fresh beef, soup, potatoes, bread; Supper: Bread, cake, tea. Friday—Dinner: Fresh fish, potatoes, bread; Supper: Bread, butter, tea. Saturday—Dinner: Corned beef, potatoes, bread; Supper: Bread, cheese, tea, beets. Sunday—Dinner: Fresh beef, soup, potatoes and bread; Supper: Marrow beans, bread, tea, butter.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Two-thirds seeded to meadow, balance in potatoes, oats, corn, and garden vegetables; should have more stable manure; no special improvements.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors. 7; \$150 each; 3 years and expenses.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Ordered by requisition from superintendent, and bought by a purchasing committee consisting of two directors.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Provided with fire escapes; stand pipes about to be placed in the insane asylum, with hose attached, ready for use, in case of fire.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Gas.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 6. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Flour purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$5.00; bought in open market by the committee.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Women's made in the institution; men's shirts, ditto; balance bought.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Music and dancing occasionally in the insane department.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No; do not think it necessary.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? Not over 20; think the number is on the decrease, as most of these were first half of the year.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Think nothing has been done; no doubt but that a number of old people are here whose children are able to care for them if so disposed.



## REPORT OF RANSOM POOR HOUSE, LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Jenkins Township, Pittston Borough and Pittston Township Poor District.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? 1857, 1859, 1860, 1860, 1864, 1865, 1866, 1866, 1867, 1870, 1871, and 1881.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? No.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? We had no able-bodied persons, only the insane and young women with babes.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Keep them to work every day if possible.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 3.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? The fathers, as reported to us, all cleared out of the district.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 1. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 20; all mild cases. Number of attendants? 1 male; none female. What wages paid per month? \$30 and board.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Bread, butter, potatoes, tomatoes, vegetables, sauce, milk and tea, fruits in their season. No regular diet is furnished at the different meals. There are changes made to suit the desires of the inmates; all get abundance of good, healthy, substantial food.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? An old farm of 160 acres, almost all cleared; a new farm of 100 acres, 20 of which giving crops; the balance of the farm is under brush, with some timber. We have R. R. stone wall, wire and board fences.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 5 directors; salary \$100 a year; 3 years; meet once a month; none of them reside at the almshouse.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? The steward presents a monthly requisition; the president appoints the party to purchase.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? We have no resident physician; the steward gives liquor sparingly, when, in his judgment, it is needed.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Hydrant near to all houses, and a good supply of hose.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? By oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? About 7 barrels per month. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Flour is purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? The prices are changeable; it is purchased in open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Outside clothing for the men is purchased; the rest is made at the home.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Plenty of out-door unrestrained exercise and employment.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? Our male attendant sleeps with the insane; we need no watchman.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? We keep no tramps over night, nor for the second meal; we had about 30 in the year.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? We have but very few cases that others are liable by law for their support.

Respectfully yours, &c.      PAUL BOHAN,  
*Secretary.*

#### REPORT OF LANCASTER COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Lancaster County Almshouse.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? I do not know.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Painted partially inside.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? Quarrying and breaking stone.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Nothing.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 8.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? All that can be done. 4; 2 arrested, 2 married.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 4. The number that died? 3. The number deserted by mother? 1. Number indentured? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 78. Idiotic, 1. Feeble-minded, 2. Number of attendants? 3 males; 2 females. What wages paid per month? \$15.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Butter, apple-butter, tea, coffee, beef and bread. Dinner: Meat, vegetables, potatoes, soups, coffee and bread. Supper: Butter, bread, molasses, milk, potatoes, biscuits, &c.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Steward.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 6; \$2 per day and mileage; 3 years; twice a month; no.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Contract and open market; steward and directors.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Hose throughout the buildings; yes.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Gas.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 12. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Both. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$4; open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Both.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? Yes. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? \$30 per month.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 941.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? If friends are able, make them pay for their support.

#### REPORT OF LEBANON COUNTY HOUSE OF EMPLOYMENT.

1. What is the official name of your institution? "The Directors of the Poor and of the House of Employment for the County of Lebanon."

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Act passed March 16th, 1830, page 105, Pamphlet Laws.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? A new hospital was built during the year.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? We had no able-bodied inmates during winter.



5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? We provide work in stone quarry.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 3.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 3. The number that died? 1. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, 2. Feeble-minded, 2. Number of attendants? 2 males; 1 female. What wages paid per month? None.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? The same as in last report.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Same as last report.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? No change from last report.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By steward and assistant. No; none.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; \$100; monthly; no.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Purchased as needed, by the steward.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? 2 force pumps; yes.
18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.
19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 3. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Grown on farm.
20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Made and purchased.
21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.
22. Do you employ a watchman, at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No.
23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 25; decreasing.
24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? None.
25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Nothing.

## REPORT OF LEHIGH COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Lehigh County Almshouse.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Have none.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? None of any importance.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 14 male and 10 female; males were employed with farm work, females with housework.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Keep them steady at hard work.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 3.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? We settle for a certain amount of money. If not, we bring the case to court.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 2. The number that died? 1. The number deserted by mother? 2. Number indentured? 3.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, 6; feeble-minded, 3. Number of attendants? 2 male, 2 female. What wages paid per month? \$33.33.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: coffee, tea, bread, butter, cheese, syrup, cake or pie, eggs and meat. Dinner: coffee or milk, vegetables, bread, syrup and meat. Supper: bread, soup, fried potatoes, hash, coffee or tea, apple-butter or syrup.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Same as in last report, except a new water closet was built at the hospital.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Same as last report.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By the steward and one hired man; improvements made as needed.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; \$200 per year; 3 years; they meet at institution once a month; none remain as a resident director.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? In open market by the steward.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? Not unless ordered by the board of directors.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire extinguishers and hose; fire escapes are erected as required by law.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 6 barrels. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Part purchased and other grown on farm. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$4.50 per barrel; bought in open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Made by inmates.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None, except religious services.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? We do not; I do not think it necessary.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 2,640; decreasing.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Whenever we find persons liable for support of paupers, we compel them to support them if they are able.

MOSES KERN,  
*Steward.*

#### REPORT OF WILLIAMSPORT POOR HOUSE, LYCOMING COUNTY.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Poor House.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Not any.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? No.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? Not any.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Do not admit them.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? Not any.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? None born here.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. the number that died? 1. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, none; feeble-minded, none. What wages paid per month? Know nothing about that; we pay the man in charge a weekly amount for each pauper, as we have stated before.



10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast, Dinner, Supper—Know nothing about these matters.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? A 3-story frame building; 7 rooms on first floor, twelve on second floor and ten on third floor.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? No farm connected with building.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? No farm.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? No directors.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By the man in charge.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire escapes provided according to law.
18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? We do not attend to that.
19. How many barrels of flour used per week? Do not know. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? No farm connected. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Do not know.
20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Purchased.
21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None in particular.
22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? We do not; it is not necessary. If one is employed what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? None employed.
23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 7; increasing.
24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? Not any.
25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? All liable by law, who are in circumstances able to take care, do so without resort to legal means.

## REPORT OF McKEAN COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? McKean County Poor House.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? No.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? No.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? None.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 3.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 2. The number that died? 1.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, 1. Number of attendants? 1 male, 1 female. What wages paid per month? \$25 and \$16.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Meat and vegetables raised on farm and butter made. Breakfast: Coffee, potatoes, bread and butter, cake and cold meats. Dinner: Tea, meat, potatoes and other vegetables, bread and butter. Supper: Tea, bread and butter, and vegetables.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Cattle barn built; raise corn, oats, vegetables and hay; 125 fruit trees and 150 ornamental trees planted; 15 acres cleared and stumped.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? No directors, but county commissioners.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? In quantities to last a quarter, by superintendent.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Hose for attaching, but water supply is not large enough; have fire escapes.
18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.
19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? Less than a barrel. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Flour purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Average about \$6.75 per barrel; lowest bidder.
20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 10 or 12; hard to say.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Every party that is able to support those they are liable for, are compelled to do so.

### REPORT OF MERCER COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Mercer County Almshouse.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Yes; in 1850.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Yes; painting and whitewashing.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Do not have any of that class.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 1.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Nothing.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 1. Number indentured? 7.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? Not any. Idiotic, 6; feeble-minded, 24.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Bread, butter, coffee, tea, syrup, potatoes. Dinner: Bread, potatoes, beef, vegetables, soup, tea, coffee and milk, sometimes cheese. Supper: Bread, coffee, tea, syrup, butter and hash, sometimes cold meat.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? In last year's report.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Painted.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? 200 rods of board and wire fence.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? See last year's report.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? In open market by steward.



16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? See last year's report.
18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Gas.
19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 3 barrels. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Both. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Do not buy flour, buy wheat, costs 90 to 95 cents per bushel.
20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Both.
21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Nothing of the kind.
22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No.
23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 85; decreasing.
25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Not anything.

GEO. H. CALDWELL,  
*Steward.*

#### REPORT OF MONTGOMERY COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Montgomery County Almshouse.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? March 10, 1806; Jan. 26, 1807; Dec. 22, 1810; March 29, 1824; March 14, 1831; April 5, 1855; April 4, 1864; April 1, 1870.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Not any.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? About 100 employed in quarrying stone and feeding stock, &c.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Nothing; by furnishing employment or building a workhouse.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 4.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? 1; obtained bond for the maintenance of the child. This comes under the district attorney unless the mother is in almshouse.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 4. The number that died? Not any. Number indentured? 1.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 26. Feeble-minded, 4. Number of attendants? 5; male 3, female 2. What wages paid per month? Average \$6.36 per month.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Coffee, bread, cabbage, cheese, butter, eggs, molasses, &c. Breakfast: Coffee, bread, cottage cheese, butter, beef or pork, as the case may be. The old men and women in the hospitals get butter *every* meal. Dinner: Beef or pork, bean soup, barley scup, pea soup, rice soup, potatoes, sauerkraut, and vegetables that are raised on farm. Supper: Coffee, bread, cottage cheese, molasses, &c. Butter is given to the infirm and those who have charge of the cattle or otherwise employed.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? They are built of stone and brick; the main building is heated by steam and lighted by gas; the hospitals are heated by large heaters, and coal oil lamps are used to light the building.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? The land borders on the Schuylkill river, and is more or less rolling or rather hilly; clay; 298 acres; 12 acres timber, 25 acres in pasture, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  acres in garden; post and rail fence, also stone walls; some of the fences are whitewashed.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Managed by a farmer employed; no improvements.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; salary, \$250 per year; term of office, 3 years; they meet 16 times a year; no resident director.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By proposal; by the directors.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? Not since May 1st, 1888.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? A line of hose in different parts of the building, and we have fire escapes; also a steam pump which can be used in case of fires.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Gas.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? About 8. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Flour is purchased and wheat is also grown. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? About \$4.15 per barrel; bought by contract.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Made in the institution.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? No entertainments.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? We do. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc? The watchman receives \$300 per annum.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 1,115 tramps.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? None.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Suit has been threatened, and in one case brought to compel maintenance.

DAVID H. ROSS.

### REPORT OF DANVILLE AND MAHONING POOR HOUSE, MON- TOUR COUNTY.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Danville and Mahoning Poor District.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Special law of 1854.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? We are now erecting new building for females and steward.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? We have 24 inmates as the last year's average; don't admit able-bodied persons only as transients.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? About the only remedy would be to turn them out and let them tramp.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 1.

7. What was done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Nothing in the way of prosecution, as it would not amount to anything if we did.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None.

10. What diet—table is furnished inmates? Bread, meat, vegetables, coffee and tea, butter. Breakfast: bread, potatoes, coffee, tea, butter and molasses, Dinner: bread, meat, potatoes, vegetables, butter. Supper: bread, potatoes, coffee, milk, butter and molasses.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Managed by steward under direction of directors.



14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; salary, \$100 per year; meet at farm every third Saturday and at office every first Saturday of the month; none remain at almshouse as directors.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By steward and directors.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician. No.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? About  $\frac{2}{3}$  barrel. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Wheat grown on farm.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None but what are furnished by themselves.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No; there is no perceptible need of one.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? About 50; increasing, if anything.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? There is plenty of poor laws now that are not enforced, and don't think it would be of any advantage to have any amendments or any more laws if good men are chosen for directors.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Nothing.

JOHN E. ROBERTS,

*One of the directors of Danville and Mahoning Poor District.*

#### REPORT OF NORTHAMPTON COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Almshouse of Northampton County.

All the questions were complied with for the several years past; is about the same now.

#### REPORT OF SUNBURY POOR HOUSE, NORTHUMBERLAND CO.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Sunbury Poor House.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Act of 1882.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Slate roof on house, all new spouting, and concrete floor in basement.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? None.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Do not support any.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? None.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, None. Feeble-minded, 1.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Bread, butter, coffee or tea, potatoes, fried, occasionally meat. Dinner: Bread, butter, potatoes, meat, either boiled or roast, vegetables in season. Supper: Bread, butter, cheese, tea or coffee, milk when desired, and a general course of such meals as are usually furnished in any well regulated household.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Brick building, 42 x 48 feet, with basement.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? 1 acre of ground; sandy, loam soil; wooden fences, all whitewashed.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? The officers of poor district are 2 overseers; salary of each, \$100; elected for a 2 year term; time of service expires years alternately.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? In open market, by the overseers.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No, sir.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? None.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 1 barrel per month. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Average cost, \$5.75.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Some made at the house, and some purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No, sir.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? None.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? For a law for summary punishment before a justice or alderman, without trial by jury, for any violations of the rules of the institution. At present we have no law which protects us for enforcing discipline in any manner.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? We have procured work for several heads of families during the year just passed, and in this way made them self-supporting.

### REPORT OF PERRY COUNTY HOUSE OF EMPLOYMENT.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Perry County House of Employment.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? General poor laws of Pennsylvania.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? No.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? None.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? We do not admit any.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? None.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by mother? None. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? 4.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Bread, coffee and syrup, with either fried eggs, potatoes, meat or fish. Dinner: Vegetables, soups, pot-pie, bread, coffee and syrup. Supper: Bread, coffee, syrup and butter, occasionally cheese, crackers and fruit.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Main building of brick, four-stories high, with separate dining rooms for different sexes; dumb waiters connecting with kitchen.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Farm is managed by steward; better water facilities for stock are much needed.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; no fixed salary; 3 years; 12 regular days for meeting at the institution, for which they receive \$20; other business extra; no resident director.



15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Supplies are purchased by steward.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Hose to be attached to water pipes; water supply inadequate. We have two inside iron stairways; no external fire escapes.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 2. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Grown on farm.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Both.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No; it is not necessary.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 132; increasing over last year.

#### REPORT OF SCHUYLKILL COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Schuylkill County Alms-house.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? 1831 and 1832.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Boiler, boiler house, laundry, bath house, steam cooking apparatus; insane yard enlarged.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 30; threshing, hauling coal, &c.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Nothing; cannot suggest any new method.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 14, from January 1st, 1888; several were married women.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Six. 1 settled; 1 not sustained; 1 married; 3 in jail.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 10. The number that died? 3. The number deserted by mother? 1 maintained.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 80. Idiotic, 3. Feeble-minded, 7. Number of attendants? 3 males; 3 females. What wages paid per month? Males, \$40; females, \$10.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Coffee, tea, meat, bread and molasses and milk. Dinner: Soup, meat, vegetables, bread and mo-

lasses, coffee and tea. Supper: Meat, bread and molasses, tea and coffee, and some milk.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Main building brick, four stories, 90 x 45; addition, brick, 3 stories, 40 x 60; insane building, 82 x 45, 3½ stories; hospital, 80 x 38, 3½ stories; old hospital, 32 x 62, 2½ stories; addition, 20 x 20; bakery, 30 x 50, 2 stories; old school house, 25 x 20, 2 stories; physician's residence, 25 x 20, 2 stories; laundry, 25 x 36; farmer's residence, 2 barns, pig-sty, sheds, &c.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Soil, red shale and loam; 260 acres; timber, 15; pasture after crops; garden, 4; post and wire; bars and gates; fences whitewashed.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By steward and farmer.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? \$2 per day; meet every Monday and first Tuesday of each month; none resident.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Cattle, flour, feed and coal, by proposal; other goods by the directors.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? Yes; to those who work.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire plugs and plenty hose. Fire escapes connected with hospital and insane building.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 12. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Purchased for 9 months; grown on farm, 3 months. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Average cost, \$4.45; purchased by contract.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Made in the institution.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Pool table in insane building, and sometimes music.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? Do employ watchman. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? \$25 per month; has instructions to call steward when necessary, and ring bell for fire alarm.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past winter, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? Average monthly, 87.

## REPORT OF SOMERSET COUNTY HOUSE OF EMPLOYMENT.

1. What is the official name of your institution? House of Employment.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so give the date of their passage? Yes; special law 15th April, 1845.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Yes; fine porticos erected to east and west end; walks made, and repaired inside.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 80; attending the stock on farm, duties in the house, cutting wood, &c.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? We have none who winter there.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 3.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? 1; party plead guilty, and party gave bond to raise child; other case, parties were married.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. the number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? 5.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? Same as previously reported. Number of attendants? 4 males; 4 females. What wages paid per month? \$4 and board; only to females.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Good and wholesome. Breakfast: Coffee, bread, potatoes, meat, butter, molasses, sometimes warm cakes, fish. Dinner: Bread, butter, molasses, soup, vegetables, beef, &c., pies and cakes. Supper: Bread, butter, tea, biscuit, cakes, egg and cold meats, potatoes, &c.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Described before.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Described before.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Managed by steward and farmed by inmates.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; salary, \$50 per year; meet first day of each month.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By contracts made by directors.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? By large tanks on garret, with hose and pipes from tanks running through the building.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? By oil lamps.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? Three and one-half barrels. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Wheat partly grown on farm; balance purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? The wheat is bought by contract, and ground in mill.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Clothing for males purchased; females' made in building.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Harvest home dinner, Christmas and Thanksgiving feasts, and musical entertainments.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No; it has not been deemed necessary. If one is employed, what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? None employed.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? Reported before.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? Our poor house is controlled and managed under a special law for Somerset county, and with but few exceptions is a very good law. We would suggest the passage of a law providing for a name by which all the almshouses of the State would be known; also, of fixing a higher salary for the directors.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? In every case where persons have been sent to the poor house, where persons are liable to pay and are able, they have been made to do so.

#### REPORT OF MONTROSE AND BRIDGEWATER POOR ASYLUM, SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Montrose and Bridgewater Poor Asylum.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Act approved the 4th day of April, 1864.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? An addition with 11 rooms, 26 x 34.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? None.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? We don't winter any such.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? None.



7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. number indentured? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, none. Feeble-minded, none. Number of attendants? None male; none female.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Meat, bread and potatoes, with coffee or tea. Dinner: About the same as above. Supper: Mush and milk and bread and butter, with tea.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Building 26 x 32; 2-story; with double sitting room, bedrooms above and below, and kitchen and pantry.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? 124 acres in farm; about 10 acres in wood; 50 acres in pasture, and the balance in meadows and plow land.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? We have a steward by the year and a farm hand.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; they all receive \$100 per annum; elected for 3 years each; they meet 12 times a year; none of them resident directors.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Purchased by the steward as they are needed.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? Never.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? They nearly all sleep on the ground floor; there are fire escapes.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? By oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? About 10 barrels per year. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Grown and purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Bought in open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None; most of the inmates are old people.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No; none needed.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 2 over night; decreasing.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? None.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for the support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? No such cases.

By the Directors.

B. THATCHER,  
*Secretary, Montrose, Pa.*

### REPORT OF SUSQUEHANNA DEPOT AND OAKLAND TOWNSHIP ASYLUM, SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Susquehanna Depot and Oakland Township Asylum.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Act of 1873.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Painting house and yard fence.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 2 males, 1 female, 1 man able to do some farm work, others too old.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? We are not troubled with such cases to any extent.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? None.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? The number deserted by mother? 1.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, none; feeble-minded, none. Number of attendants? 3 male, 1 female. What wages paid per month? \$350 per year for all.

10. What diet—table is furnished inmates? Same as steward's family; no regular bill made, but good, wholesome food.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? House all 2-story, painted white, and green blinds; 4 large rooms and 8 bedrooms; 3 barns—1 large, 1 medium, 1 small.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? On river about 20 acres of land; the balance is sloping land lying facing the east; loamy; 138 acres; 4 acres of timber; 69 pasture; 20 in garden and crops and 45 in meadow; rail, stone, post and board; gates; not whitewashed.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; total paid yearly, \$100; 3 years; 12 times; none.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? As needed by the steward.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? None.
18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.
19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 1 barrel in 6 weeks. month. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? None floured. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$5.25.
20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Purchased.
21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.
22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so.
23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? No complete record is kept, but only a small number are ever kept at asylum.
25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Nothing.

#### REPORT OF TIOGA COUNTY POOR HOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Tioga County Poor House.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? March 12, 1866, March 26, 1867, and March 13, 1873.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? About 20; they were kept at work in the house and on the farm.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? We give them plenty of work.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? None.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother?  
None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? No violent cases. Idiotic, 8. Feeble-minded, 20.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Pork, beef, fish, bread and vegetables. Breakfast: Meat or fish, bread, potatoes, coffee, milk, molasses, sugar, butter. Dinner: Either beef, pork or fish, and sometimes soup, bread, potatoes, and other vegetables. Supper: Tea, bread, sometimes cold meat, sauce, and sometimes cake, cheese, &c.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Brick, kitchen and dining-room in basement; a small, frame building in the rear, for the mildly insane; a large, substantial, and well adapted building, sufficient in size for ample accommodation of at least 200 inmates, is now in course of erection.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? 180 acres, partly clay soil; in timber, in pasture, in garden; fences and gates fairly good; a small portion of the fences are whitewashed.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By the superintendent, a good farmer; better barns are needed.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? The county commissioners are the directors, and visit the institution often; their salary is \$3 per day; term of office, 3 years.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? In open market; by the commissioners, or the superintendent, under their instructions.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician?  
No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Inmates form a bucket brigade.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week?  $1\frac{1}{4}$ . Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Open market; a good quality is always purchased, and prices vary.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? The larger part is made in the institution.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? They are supplied with all of our county papers.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? We do not; none is needed.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? Not many; our institution appears to be away from their line of travel.



24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? A law providing for the payment of the expenses of commissioners and overseers of the poor, incurred in attending their annual conventions. An entirely new and more compact code of laws, sharply defining the authority, duties and liabilities of overseers of the poor, and county commissioners.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? In several cases, relatives liable for their support have taken charge of them.

#### REPORT OF VENANGO COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Venango County Almshouse.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Special law passed 1870.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? No.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? Not any.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Give them work to do; they will leave.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 2.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother?  
1. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None kept as insane. Idiotic, None. Feeble-minded, None. Number of attendants? Males, none; females, none.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Coffee, bread, butter, syrup, fried potatoes, sometimes meat and eggs. Dinner: Milk, boiled meat, potatoes, soup, beans, cabbage, all kinds of vegetables for a change. Supper: Tea, bread, butter, syrup, and a change of potatoes, sauce, rice, oat meal, cake and cheese; pie on Sunday.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? The buildings are all good, and kept in good repair.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? The farm is rough and hilly; soil gravelly; 275 acres; 100 acres in timber, 75 in pasture, 3 acres in garden; fences rail and board; boards whitewashed.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By the superintendent.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? County commissioners are directors; \$3.50 per day; meet at county house once per month; office, court house.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By superintendent and county commissioners.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Yes.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? By oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week?  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Nearly half on farm. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Bought in open market, at market price.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Males' purchased; females' mostly made.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? They play games; once in a while concert.

22. Do you employ a watchman, at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 110.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? That relatives, if able, be compelled to care for their poor.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? The commissioners have made some pay.

HENRY A. CULP,

*Sup't Venango Co. Almshouse.*

## REPORT OF ROUSE HOSPITAL, WARREN COUNTY.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Rouse Hospital.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Yes; we have done repairing, painting, new range, &c.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? No able-bodied men or women.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? None.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? None.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? None. The number that died? None.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? Our insane are not kept here. Number of attendants? 2 males; 3 females. What wages paid per month? Male \$20, female \$12.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: bread, butter, coffee or tea, potatoes and meat. Dinner: the same as breakfast with vegetables. Supper: bread and butter with, tea, coffee and sauce.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? We have but one building, a brick, 3 stories high, including basement.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? The farm contains 400 acres; the soil is varied from sandy loam to heavy clay. I am unable to give you the division.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? The superintendent has control of farm.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors. No; the county commissioners are the directors of the poor; they visit once a month.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? By the superintendent, as he deems best.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.
17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? We have hose on the different floors but no fire escapes.
18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.
19. How many barrels of flour are used per week?  $1\frac{1}{4}$ . Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Purchased. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? We buy at wholesale, price, \$4.75.
20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? The clothing for the males purchased, the balance manufactured here.
22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? We do not.
23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? As there is no record up to the time I came in as superintendent I cannot answer.

## REPORT OF WASHINGTON COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Washington County Almshouse.
2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? No special law.
3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? A gas well has been put down on the farm, the fuel and light are furnished from it.
4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 12 males and 10 females; general farm and housework.
5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Keep them constantly at work.
6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 9.
7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? 1 prosecution; failed to convict.
8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 6. The number that died? 1. The number deserted by mother? None. Number indentured? None.
9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? None. Idiotic, 6; feeble-minded, 70. Number of attendants? 1 male; 1 female. What wages paid per month? \$25 and \$30.
10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Tea, coffee and milk, bread, butter, molasses, bacon, beef and vegetables. Breakfast: bread, coffee, molasses and fried mush or potatoes. Dinner: bread, milk or water, soup and vegetables, beef or pork. Supper: bread, meat, coffee and molasses.
11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Described last year.
12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Described last year.
13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By farmer and inmates, under superintendent's direction.
14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3 directors; Ralph Vankirk, \$167; John C. Sloan, \$175; David McIlery, deceased, \$40; Joseph Farquher, 9 months, \$145.
15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Purchased in open market by superintendent.
16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? Never.



17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire plugs and hose connect with steam pump in boiler room; iron fire escapes, Batton's patent.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? By gas.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 8 barrels. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Part purchased, part raised on farm. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$4.50; in open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Part made and part purchased?

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Musical entertainments, and same recommended.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No; do not think it necessary.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 1,240; vagrancy has decreased very fast since the county jail was shut against vagrants by order of court, we require all tramps to break stone two hours before receiving their meals.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them, rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Those that are liable are compelled to pay for the support of those sent to the home.

E. G. CUNDALL,

*Supt. Washington County Almshouse.*

#### REPORT OF HONESDALE AND TEXAS ALMSHOUSE, WAYNE CO.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Honesdale and Texas Almshouse.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? Yes; do not know the date.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? No.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 3; general house work, care of stock, threshing grain, cutting fire wood.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Make them work so hard that they would rather go elsewhere and work for wages.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? Not any.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Not any.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 2. Feeble-minded, 3. Number of attendants? 2 farm hands, male; 1 female. What wages paid per month? \$13 to the males, \$8 to female.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Coffee, bread, butter, or buckwheat cakes, fried pork or beef, potatoes or fried mush. Dinner: Tea or milk, bread, molasses, potatoes, boiled corn beef in winter, pork in summer, turnips and beans occasionally. Supper: Tea, bread, butter, apple sauce, cold meat, potatoes, sometimes mush and milk.

11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Have been described.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Have been described.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? Dairying and mixed farming. 2d, stone fences, more needed.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; \$25 per annum; 3 years; once each month; no.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Steward.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Plenty of water near buildings.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Oil.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week?  $\frac{2}{3}$  barrel. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Part purchased and part grown. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? Open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Purchased, excepting shirts, which are made.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Nothing but work; should have something once a week, the monotony is killing.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No; 2d, have not found it necessary.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 1st, 2; 2d, about as usual.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? To compel directors of almshouses to furnish bath rooms.

BY THE STEWARD.

#### REPORT OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY HOME.

1. What is the official name of your institution? Westmoreland County Home.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? None.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? About 25 male and 6 females; doing errands and sweeping, scrubbing, &c.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Require them to work every day possible.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? Year of 1887, 3 lying-in cases; since Jan. 1, 1888, we have had 8.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? No prosecutions entered.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 3.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 42. Idiotic, 2. Number of attendants? 1 male, 2 female. What wages paid per month? Male \$18; female \$3 per week.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Breakfast: Coffee or tea, bread, butter, molasses, (and meat for working men and women.) Dinner: Coffee, bread, beef, pork or fish, potatoes, rice, beans, cabbage, corn, prunes, &c. Supper: Tea, bread, butter, molasses or apple butter, cheese, soup or corn bread.

13. Give a full description of how the farm is managed, the improvements made, and what are needed, with any other matter of interest? By superintendent; worked by farmer employed.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 5; \$200 per year; 3 years; first Monday and third Friday of each month; none remain at the almshouse as resident directors.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Supplies purchased by superintendent.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Hose that can be attached to pipes and throw water in any room in the building; escapes have been provided.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? By gas.

19. How many barrels of flour used per week? 22 barrels per week. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Flour purchased, about 600 bushels grown on farm each year. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? \$4.30 to \$4.50 per barrel; bought in open market.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Part made and part purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? Newspapers are largely supplied.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? A watchman is employed. If one is employed what wages are given, and what regulations have been adopted for reports, etc.? \$20 per month.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 692; if we would feed all the tramps that come, I think vagrancy would be on the increase; we seldom feed any except cripples.

24. What amendment have you to suggest to the present Poor Laws? The information for the removal or relief of a pauper should be upon the oath of one or more reputable citizens; directors should have authority to take charge of a poor person upon their own view, without a justice's order in all cases. Physicians who attend out-door paupers, should be required to notify the directors immediately upon taking charge of such poor person, and their fees limited.

### REPORT OF YORK COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

1. What is the official name of your institution? York County Almshouse and House of Employment.

2. Have you any special law or laws under which it is organized and governed, and if so, give the date of their passage? No.

3. Have any improvements been made in the almshouse during the past year? Yes; steam engine, washing machine and wringer.

4. What was the average number of able-bodied male and female inmates supported during the past winter, and what employment was furnished them during the winter? 14 $\frac{2}{3}$ ; breaking stone and threshing for men; washing, ironing for women.

5. What has been done, or can be done, to prevent able-bodied persons from "wintering" in almshouses? Don't admit them.

6. Give number of lying-in cases during the year? 2.

7. What is done in the way of prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children born in almshouses? How many prosecutions did you enter last year, and give the results? Had none.

8. Give number of children born in the house taken by the mother? 2. The number that died? None. The number deserted by mother? None.

9. Give the number of insane patients supported at almshouse during the year? 16. Idiotic, 2; feeble-minded, 48. Number of attendants? 1 male, 1 female. What wages paid per month? None. Number indentured? None.

10. What diet—table—is furnished inmates? Beef, veal, mutton, pork sausage, pudding, rice, peas, potatoes, turnips, bread, fruit in season. Breakfast: bread, coffee, molasses, butter, fried potatoes. Dinner: meat, rice, bean soup, peas, potatoes, pot-pie, &c. Supper: coffee or tea, bread, cheese, molasses, &c.



11. Give a description of the buildings used by the inmates? Same as before.

12. Give a description of the farm—character of soil, number of acres, number in timber, in pasture, in garden; kind of fences used, bars or gates, and are fences whitewashed? Same as before.

14. Give the number of directors—the salary paid each per annum, term of office, the number of times they meet at the institution, and do any of them remain at the almshouse as resident directors? 3; pay \$70; 3 years; meet at the institution the first Friday of every month; one is selected from the city who acts as resident director.

15. How are the supplies purchased, and by whom? Monthly; by one of the directors.

16. Is liquor ever given to the inmates except as ordered by the physician? No.

17. What arrangements have been made for the extinguishment of fires, and are fire escapes provided as required by law? Fire escapes provided; building provided with "Holloway's fire extinguishers," 2 fire plugs on the premises, and a steam fire engine within a few hundred yards of the buildings.

18. How is the building lighted, by electricity, gas or oil? Exterior by electricity, interior by gas.

19. How many barrels of flour are used per week? 2 per month. Is flour purchased, or is the wheat grown on the farm? Both. If purchased, what is the cost per barrel, and is it bought in open market or by contract? We buy the bread daily at  $2\frac{1}{4}$  cents per pound.

20. Is the clothing used by the inmates made in the institution, or is it purchased? Partly made and partly purchased.

21. What entertainments are provided for inmates, and to what extent are the same recommended? None.

22. Do you employ a watchman at night? If not, would it not be proper to do so? No.

23. How many tramps have been cared for during the past year, and is vagrancy increasing or decreasing in your county? 449, male and female; decreasing.

25. What has been done to compel persons liable for support of others to provide for them rather than that they should be a charge on the poor district? Nothing.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Is it the wish of the Convention that the roll be called and the delegates make a short report, or will these reports cover the whole ground? It was put into the programme by the request of two or three of the parties with whom I was corresponding about our prospective programme. I think it a wise suggestion, and for that reason I put it in. Is it the will of the Convention that the roll be called; and the counties make a short verbal report, or not?

*Mr. Price:* As has been suggested by the Secretary, would it not be a good idea to call the roll of the counties and see if any county has any new matter or idea to present.

*The President:* I think that is a very good idea. I think we are going a little too rapidly, as we are not going to visit a battlefield this time.

It being the wish of the Convention, the Secretary here called the roll.

*Mr. Rolshouse (Allegheny):* I think our report will cover the ground. I will be glad to hear anything new if it comes up, but I think our report covers the question.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Somebody told me that out of two hundred and fifty at your City Home there were one hundred and thirty insane, out of a population of two hundred and fifty or two hundred and eighty. Now if that is the fact, it seems to me, and I haven't any doubt it is so, that that is a very large percentage of insane in proportion to the whole population. I do not think there is another Almshouse in the State that would show such a large proportion.

*Mr. Hunker (Allegheny):* It was I that made the remark that out of two hundred and eighty there were that number of insane; I think ninety-eight are insane there and thirty-two in Dixmont; that's the way the question came out.

*Mr. Hoffman (Pittsburgh):* We have eighty-nine insane at Dixmont and one hundred and sixty-five at our asylum, and three hundred and twenty inmates. There is one thing I would like to say, and that is that foreign immigration should be stopped. A large pauper population, people that are unable to take care of themselves, are being shipped into this district. The Investigating Committee of Congress sent an agent to ascertain the facts in various places, and in four months I found eleven that were paupers, and it is my intention to produce that evidence when the Committee comes here.

*The President:* If anybody wants any information about the poor, or the foreign immigration committee, or the question of insanity, Mr. Hoffman is authority, as he has been connected with such institutions for years. I did not know that he was in the audience.

*Mr. Reed* (Beaver): We have thirty-one at Dixmont out of about sixty-five.

*Mr. Armstrong* (Bedford): We have nothing to add. I simply desire to state that we have nothing special from Bedford county to report, in addition to the report already filed. In the almshouse we have about seventy-two or seventy-three inmates and about twelve in the asylum, not insane, not to be classified as insane altogether, but imbeciles. When it comes to the question of out-door medical assistance or attendance we will then have some statements, and some questions to present to the Convention.

*Mr. Brumbaugh* (Blair): Mr. Young, our steward, is here and I presume he wishes me to say what he would say. We have sixty-one inmates at the present time, thirty-four at Harrisburg that have been entered there by the Directors of the Poor at Harrisburg and Danville, outside of what was sent by the County Commissioners, I think we have some forty-five all told in the two institutions. The steward has made a full report.

*Mr. Ross* (Montgomery): The question I would like to inquire about is how inmates are sent by the direction of the County Commissioners. That seems a new practice to me, and I would like to know what he means by that. Have they been inmates of another hospital?

*Mr. Brumbaugh* (Blair): I think under the laws of the State that the Directors of the Poor and the Commissioners have authority, and the Commissioners send those that are sent there by order of Court. The Directors of the Poor send those that are examined by a physician, and are sent without the order of Court. Commissioners care for theirs, and the Directors of the Poor care for theirs, that is, pay the bills. That's the way we have it in Blair County.

*Mr. Swisher* (Chester): We have about one hundred and ninety inmates, and about forty-five insane at Norristown; we have also seven at Harrisburg.

*Mr. Dunn* (Erie): We have at the present about one hundred and eighty in each of our county homes, which includes about fourteen that you might call imbeciles. We also have at the Warren Asylum forty-eight insane.

*Mr. Carr (Fayette):* Mr. Chairman, we have one hundred and forty-six inmates, with thirty at Dixmont, in addition to the thirty that are paid for by the Board of Poor Directors. There are possibly fifteen or twenty paid for by the County Commissioners. We keep no insane, as such, at the almshouse, neither do we receive any more. All that are now sent by the county are sent by order of Court and paid for by the Commissioners. But I have reason to believe that all insane of the different counties that are kept at the State hospital should be paid for by the County Commissioners. I think it an imposition on the Poor Districts to charge up to them the keeping of the insane in State hospitals, especially since the Act of 1883, which provides that the State pays one-half. It occurs to me that the purpose and design of that Act, and it is the opinion of the State Board of Charities as well as the Secretary of the Committee on Lunacy, that the entire charges should be paid by the County Commissioners and not by the Board of Poor Directors. I have a letter from Dr. Ray to this effect. This is his opinion, and the opinion of the Board of Charities, and it occurs to me it would be the proper way. It seems to me that some action relative to this matter by this Convention would be of considerable importance. We are paying for thirty people at Dixmont, and that is charged to this poor district, that is their expense account, while we have nothing to do with it whatever. While we are not sending any more we would like very much to get rid of the expense of the thirty that we have already there. I think it a very important matter and would like some expression of opinion on the subject from the Convention.

*Mr. Hoffman (Pittsburgh):* We have a great many insane and I would like to get rid of them in the same way. I would also suggest that when a Judge of the Court send an insane person to the asylum he first has a certificate from the district to which he belongs. The Courts have been sending them, but do not designate their settlement.

*Mr. Brumbaugh (Blair):* I think the suggestion of Mr. Carr is a very wise one, from the fact that a Court having jurisdiction in cases like this can surely hear the application and give notice to all parties interested so the case can be properly sent there



under the terms of the insane laws. And as he has said, we have to distinguish in making out our financial reports, stating how many were in the different institutions ; and we have during the past three or four years, in making out the financial statements, stated how many were at the different institutions, and had the statement made in such a way that it showed just exactly what was paid to the different hospitals, and that showed in the report then, that this should be deducted from the actual expenses of the almshouse. I think, further, that there are one or two cases that came up in our county that had they been investigated by the Court, and sent there by direction of the Court, we would not have had the trouble afterwards of locating the person. It is true that persons would be sent there as soon as possible, so that the case may not become chronic, but there should also be as much evidence as could be produced before the Court, to satisfy the Court from what district they are from, so that their residence or settlement could be made out before they have been sent by the decree of the Court.

*Mr. Price (Allegheny):* I want to ask the gentleman one question : What difference does it make if the thirty insane belonging to Fayette county are at Dixmont, and paid out of the funds of the Poor District or Commissioners ; it comes out of the taxpayers at any rate ?

*Mr. Carr (Fayette):* Mr. Chairman, the Board of Poor Directors of Fayette county—I only speak of Fayette county—and the County Commissioners of Fayette county are two separate and distinct bodies, each controlling a certain fund which is raised by taxation from people in the county. But the expense incurred by the Board of Poor Directors, and included in which is the expense of keeping the insane, is charged to them. It is an unjust charge against the Board of Poor Directors of any county, and possibly if the gentleman of Allegheny county was a citizen of Fayette county he would find it would make a very material difference. It is just this much difference, however, that it is a question of dollars and cents. It makes a great deal of difference in the estimation of certain persons resident of Fayette county, and that's the reason I think it should be properly placed where it belongs.

*Mr. Ross* (Montgomery): I will say that any resolution that this Convention could pass upon this subject would be of little avail. It is a question of law, and I think if you would have patience for two or three, or four months, the question will be decided legally. In our county, Montgomery, the authorities at the State Hospital first sent in their bill to the County Commissioners who refused to pay it. They sent it to our Board then who refused to pay it, and then they sent it back to the County Commissioners. They again refused, and I think in the course of a few months somebody will have to pay that bill, and I think that will be a very good criterion for the other counties to go by. The question never arose in Montgomery county until a few months ago. The County Commissioners had been paying the bill, and now they refuse. Our Board took the ground that the proper channel for the fund to come through is the County Commissioners, inasmuch as most of the insane are sent there by order of Court. I think that Act will have a judicial interpretation before long there.

*Mr. Coleman*: Doesn't the order of Court specify who is to pay the bill of the hospital?

*Mr. Ross*: It does not. It says the bill shall be charged to the county, over which the Judge is presiding.

*Mr. Coleman*: In our county we had no trouble whatever. All insane that are sent to the hospital were sent there mostly by order of Court, and we pay no attention to the bills coming from Dixmont, whether the Commissioners pay them or not. I appreciate the position of Mr. Carr about keeping down the expenses of the poor houses. In the country districts it is very greatly criticized, and it brought about a revision in the management of our poor houses which has done good. The people, who like to complain about the taxes, scan the bills of the Poor House, and they are criticised more than anything else. These bills should be, and are, properly chargeable to the county. I appreciate the position that Mr. Carr brought before this Convention.

*Mr. Herr* (Lancaster): To bring this matter to where it properly belongs, if these are State institutions why not have the State bear the expense for the care of the insane instead of the county? The State Board of Lunacy demands the insane be

taken to the State institutions, and if there is so much trouble with regard to the expenses incurred, why not ask the Legislature to pass a law that the State take charge of them and bear the expenses? The counties of the State pay the taxes as a portion of what is charged, so why not have the whole thing consolidated and make it one, instead of having it divided. I think that's where this question belongs. Let it go to the State, as we have State institutions.

*Mr. Price (Allegheny):* The gentleman from Lancaster has presented a paper, and I would like the Secretary to read the third section of the paper. It is presented by Mr. Herr, of Lancaster.

Secretary McGonnigle here read the third section referred to.

*Mr. Price:* Now, Mr. Chairman, that matter is one of very great importance in my mind, and should receive a considerable amount of discussion on this floor. We are just on the eve of the meeting of our next Legislature, and we have a committee appointed for the purpose of securing additional legislation for our use. We have secured a great deal already, and this question that is being discussed at the present time is one of the vastest that we can handle, and we should be careful as to manner in which it shall be done. The State makes every year a large taxation, upwards into the hundreds of thousands of dollars in the different parts of this State for the purpose of maintaining insane asylums, and I tell you there is not an insane asylum which is supported by the State, as far as I know, but what is more than half filled with patients from whom they are collecting from five dollars to twenty-five dollars a week. I contend that these institutions should provide for these poor creatures. It seems that the Commissioners are quarrelling about who should pay for them. They are wards of the State and it should be paid out of the State funds, and I do not think the matter will be satisfactorily settled until the State assumes the charge of them. I think our committee on legislation should be very largely instructed to use their best and earnest endeavors to have such an Act passed.

*Mr. Brumbaugh (Blair):* This question has been very fully discussed by the Legislature that passed the law under which we are now acting, that the counties pay half the expense, and the



State the other half. The question arose in a great many of the counties that have gone to the expense of having their own institutions, for instance, a great number of counties in the State had erected very fine insane asylums. I think Lancaster county, a number of the large counties, had fine institutions; they had built those very recently, and if the State had taken upon itself the responsibility of caring for all the insane within the State, their institutions would not have been sufficient to care for them. In order to have the matter in proper shape the counties that had their own institutions, and under good management, they divided, and we have the legislation that we now have—that is, the expense of the insane in State hospitals. The time will come—I don't know as we are ready just now to suggest to the Legislature—but the time will come when they will take full charge of the insane. If they do, they have a right to care for them; they can care for them at their own hospitals, if they have sufficient places to keep them. If you go to Philadelphia you find five or six hundred, perhaps more than that, in their insane hospital, Blockley Almshouse. You have a large number in the western part of the State. So that there will have to be accommodations made before you can authorize the State to build new hospitals. This question was very fully discussed before the Legislature.

*Mr. Sypher* (Philadelphia): As Chairman of the Committee of this Convention, appointed at Somerset, I know something of the legislation referred to. The Legislature passed precisely what we asked for, without so much as dotting an "i" or crossing a "t". I believe it is generally understood among the members of the Convention there that ultimately the question of the State appropriating sufficient money to care for the insane would be presented to the Legislature. Whether the time has come for that or not is a question for you. But I am fully persuaded that it is a duty of the State to provide for the insane. And when we present that matter in the right shape to the Legislature, and ask the passage of a proper Bill, I have no doubt but what we will get it. I think that question put by the gentleman from Lancaster is to the point. The insane *are* the wards of the State, and for the life of me I don't see how the county shall be taxed by the State institutions, and shall be asked to pay a *pro rata* for the care of the



inmates, because forsooth they come from the county. If they are the wards of the State, clearly it is the duty of the State to pay the expenses.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* The *Philadelphia Record*, printed Wednesday morning, October 10th, contains a copy of a report made by Thomas G. Morton, M. D., Chairman of the Committee on Lunacy, to a meeting of the trustees and superintendents of the various State hospitals, held in Philadelphia, a few days ago. I will read it for you :

CASH BALANCES ON SEPTEMBER 30TH OF EACH YEAR, IN HOSPITAL.

	1884.	1885.	1886.	1887.
Harrisburg.....	\$12,201.93	\$17,393.36	\$23,240.04	\$48,968.73
Dixmont .....	11,645.53	25,323.46	38,454.01	57,802.86
Danville.....		26,075.93	31,917.30	43,607.87
Norristown.....	31,668.30	9,423.31	71,554.62	72,005.54
Warren.....	256.13	941.97	8,270.72	7,691.58
Total.....	\$55,771.89	\$79,158.03	\$173,436.69	\$230,166.58

The fact that so large a sum should have accumulated, shows either that the per capita cost for maintaining the insane poor by the State has been rated too high, or that the insane have not had the fullest benefit of the appropriations. It becomes therefore, a question what should be done with these cash balances now in the treasuries of the various State hospitals. Have the trustees of the State hospitals the right to use such balances, unquestionably appropriated for maintenance, for any or all purposes pertaining to the care and treatment of the insane, or should such unused balances revert to the State treasury ?

It seems to me we are rapidly drifting into the position that the State will have to take entire charge of the insane, and for the life of me, I don't see why they don't, and stop this continual contention as to where these insane men and women belong to. Ohio takes entire care of the insane, so does Indiana and Illinois, (except the clothing,) and whenever a man there becomes insane, the State takes care of him, and there is no question as to how, when or where the money is to paid ; the State has it already provided for. But in this State the question comes up, "Where does he come from?" It seems that there is not an insane man or woman that can be treated, unless somebody is going to pay his board.

We are rapidly coming to that state of affairs that the hospitals are going to have more money on hand than they know what to do with. I have no doubt that in January, every hospital will

be at the front wanting more money, and you can't get a person admitted into any of them unless you pay for their support. It strikes me it would be proper for us to put ourselves on record, that we are in favor of the State taking care of their own wards. Let me read you a letter from Governor Beaver :

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER,

HARRISBURG, *September 20, 1888.*

ROBT. D. MCGONNIGLE, *Pittsburgh, Penna.*

My dear sir :—I am just in receipt of the circular and programme relating to the 14th annual meeting of the Association of Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania, to be held at Uniontown, Fayette county, on Tuesday, October 16th next.

I thank you for calling my attention to this meeting. I am deeply interested in it and the results which may flow from it, and although unable to attend, as I would like to do were it in my power, I will follow its proceedings with interest, and will hope to secure a very early copy of its published proceedings, if they shall be published. If the publication should be long delayed, I would be glad to know in advance of the meeting of the Legislature the results of the meeting of the Association, so far as recommendations for future legislation are concerned.

The care and education of indigent children, so as to overcome inherited pauperizing tendencies and remove them from pauperizing surroundings, is a most important subject, and will, I hope, receive the careful consideration of the Convention. Useful employment of a proper kind for our paupers, whether in almshouses or maintained by the townships, ought to be carefully considered. The happiness of the individual and the welfare of the community alike depend upon every citizen doing his share, according to his ability, in the way of productive industry. This subject has doubtless been considered by your Association, but if a successful effort to remodel our road laws were made, would it not be possible—at least in the counties where the townships care for their own poor—to give them employment according to their ability upon the roads of the township; the Road-master or Supervisors paying to the overseers of the poor just what their services might be worth. This is, in my judgment, a very important subject, and may well receive the careful consideration of your Convention. It involves, of course, a remodeling, to a certain extent at least, of our road laws; and this is the real point of the inquiry.

Hoping that the deliberations of the Convention will result in much good to our unfortunate fellow-citizens, and also in wise conclusions as to the subjects discussed, I am

Very cordially yours,

JAMES A. BEAVER.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* That shows the Governor is alive to the situation, and while he doesn't say much on the subject of the insane, I haven't any doubt that any recommendation we make to him will receive careful attention from him in his message to the Legislature.

*Mr. Price (Allegheny):* I would like to call the attention of the gentleman to the fact that our Mute schools are supported by the State, our Blind Asylums are supported by the State, and why should not our Insane asylums be supported by the State? I think the committee that presents itself before the Legislature has a grand opportunity to present the case, and I am very much pleased with what the gentleman has already said.

*Mr. Carr (Fayette):* Our experience is, that we are entitled to as many children at the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-minded Children from Fayette county as we have representatives in the Legislature.

Under this law we would be entitled to three, but we have only one; but for that one, or three, or as many as we are entitled to, we have to pay there for their clothing. So the State does not pay entirely for feeble-minded children. Anything in addition to the three, or as many representatives as you have, you have to pay for, and pay for their clothing too.

*Mr. Armstrong (Bedford):* We have two feeble-minded children, and our county also pays for their clothing.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* The State makes a provision for the children, except their clothing, and I think that applies to the Blind asylums and the Deaf and Dumb asylums; but that is trivial in comparison to the attention that they get there. If the State would say, "We'll take care of the insane, and let the districts pay for the clothing," the matter would be settled.

*Mr. Roney (Philadelphia):* The question has been asked whether this is the proper time to agitate the question before the

Legislature. To my mind no time is so opportune as the present. I cannot understand why there should be so much dissension on the question of the keeping of the insane. We can support the insane at Blockley on a per capita of twenty-five cents per day, and I hold that their food, clothing, heat and attention will compare favorably with any institution in the State. I have no desire to enter into a lengthy discussion on the subject, but I think there is no time more opportune than the present.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Would it not be a good idea to refer it to the committee on legislation, and have them put the matter in such shape as to call the attention of the Legislature to the fact that we want the State to assume the care of the insane.

*Mr. Sypher (Philadelphia):* Mr. Chairman, I understood we were proceeding with the call of the counties when this question was sprung upon the Convention, and I think it has been sufficiently indulged in. Had we not better lay it over and call the next counties, and then we will pass resolutions.

The call of counties was proceeded with.

*Mr. Thompson:* We have nothing more to add to the report already filed, and I think it covered the whole ground.

*Mr. Worth:* We have three hundred and eighty-five. We have forty-nine insane in our building, and forty-seven in Harrisburg. I have a word or two to say about the question as to whether the Directors of the Poor or the County Commissioners should pay for these insane. The County Commissioners are not the trustees of the insane, that belongs to the Directors of the Poor. We would be very glad if the County Commissioners would pay ourselves, but we can't ask them, because it is not right when they have no control of the insane.

*Mr. Curran:* We have two hundred and twenty-five in our almshouse, and we move our insane to the State hospital, at Norristown; we have at present thirty-two there.

*Mr. Edleman:* We have one hundred and sixty-five inmates, but I do not know how many insane, because they are all removed to the State hospital at Norristown, and the commissioners are paying for them, but I think the number is between seventy and eighty.



*Mr. Kell* (Perry County): We have nothing to report other than what is already reported. Our number of inmates is smaller now than it has been for the past fifteen years. This can be accounted for in this way: A few years ago the directors of the poor compelled a family to go the almshouse, inasmuch as they caused them a great deal of trouble and received outside aid, and the directors compelled them to go to the almshouse. Some of their friends, on their behalf, had a writ *habeas corpus* served, and it was brought into court, and the judge gave it as his opinion that the Directors of the Poor had no right to compel any one to go to the almshouse, stating that the county had made provision for the poor at the almshouse; and that if the poor didn't want to take advantage of those provisions, they might work their own way, and if they desired to starve they could do so.

*Mr. Crout* (Germantown): We have seventy-seven inmates, and I suppose probably twelve or fourteen are not of sound mind, but they are in such a state as not to need medical assistance. We forty-three at Norristown that we pay for, in the neighborhood of one thousand dollars every quarter. It was tried to be urged on the Legislature that the State should assume the expense and maintenance of the poor. The State is better able to do it at this time than ever it has been for fifty years, as it is almost entirely out of debt, two or three million perhaps, but it is in course of liquidation. So the Legislature, I think, would listen to the proposition.

*Mr. Colburn* (Somerset): Somerset County Poor Farm was organized under a special law. At the present day, I will state, that under this law we have peculiar provisions. One of the provisions of that law is, that the poor directors shall make a report to the grand jury once every year, giving the names of every inmate that has been admitted during the year to that almshouse, the number of children indentured, the number of persons relieved, and the number of tramps lodged, &c. This makes a full report, and the people of the county have been benefited by it.

At the present day we have seventy-four in our home. We have no insane. We have about fifteen harmless imbecile, uneducated creatures, who have the freedom of the home and farm there. We have, I think, nine at Dixmont, and three at Harrisburg.

Six of them are paid for by the Directors of the Poor, and the rest by the County Commissioners; they have been sent there by order of court. We have complied with the request sent out by the Secretary of this Board, and have sent in our report, and we have nothing to add to what we have said in this report. I have brought with me one of the reports of the Directors of the Poor, filed in our courts last winter, and will be pleased to have it before this Convention for examination, as a matter of curiosity.

*Mr. Cope* (Westmoreland): I don't know as I have anything special to report besides what has already been reported. I would say, however, that in Westmoreland county there is rather an increase of pauperism or inmates at our County Home, also outside persons who are asking for relief. As to the number we are supporting now, inside and outside, including what we have now at Dixmont, I would put at four hundred persons. The number of insane at Dixmont I couldn't say. In the home, I think we have at the present time, two hundred, or very nearly so. In regard to any further reports, I haven't anything special to say.

*Mr. Ross*: I wish to offer a resolution, as follows:

*Resolved*, That a committee of five be appointed to suggest officers for this Association, for the ensuing year, and also to suggest the place for holding the next annual convention.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

*Mr. Brumbaugh*: We have been discussing the matter of the insane at some length, and I would now offer this resolution:

*Resolved*, That the care of the indigent insane be referred to the Committee on Legislation, suggesting the propriety of the State caring and paying for their insane, as soon as they can assume the responsibility.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

*Mr. Roney*: I move a motion of thanks be given to Mr. Watters for his kind invitation to visit the school.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

*Mr. Brumbaugh*: I move we adjourn until quarter after one.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

*The President:* I will announce the committee on organization, and next place of meeting.

MESSRS. ROSS, Montgomery Co.; SWISHER, Chester Co.; WITHERSPOON, Franklin Co.; EWING, Beaver Co.; WORST, Lancaster Co.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* It has been customary for any delegate having a city to suggest as a place of meeting, to hand it to the Committee, and let them take the matter up. The only consideration is to select a place with good hotel accommodations and railroad facilities, accessible to all parties without any inconvenience to anybody.

*The President:* It would be well for the Committee to retire at their leisure and fix this matter up.

*Mr. Rolshouse:* I offer the following resolution:

*Resolved,* That a committee of three be appointed to audit the accounts of the Treasurer.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

*The President:* I will appoint on the Committee to audit the accounts, the following gentlemen:

MESSRS. ROLSHOUSE, Allegheny Co.; KELL, Perry Co.; COLBORN, Somerset Co., Committee to audit Treasurer's report.

*Mr. Glenn (Allegheny):* I move we visit the Fayette County Home at half-past eight to-morrow morning.

Motion seconded.

*The President:* I guess we had better postpone that matter until this evening.

*Mr. Glenn (Allegheny):* The motion is seconded and is before the house.

*The President:* I don't see how we can decide that now. There is a meeting of the Association on this programme for eleven A. M. to-morrow.

*Mr. Glenn (Allegheny):* That can be put off until later. This will expedite matters, and if we go there at half-past eight we can return at half past ten or eleven and have a short session, and that will give us time to go to the Orphans' School.

*The President* : The motion now is to go out there at half-past eight, and come back for a short session ; are there any remarks ?

*Mr. McGonnigle* : As I understand it, the Committee that has charge of the arrangements have not yet concluded their deliberations, and from the little talk I have had with the Chairman, their idea is to leave here for the Soldiers' Orphans' School about eleven o'clock to-morrow, taking our dinner out there. So if you make an arrangement to go there about eight or nine o'clock you may interfere with the arrangements that have been made.

*Mr. Price* (Allegheny) : If it would facilitate matters a little I would state that the Committee on making arrangements for going to the Soldiers' Orphans' School is ready to report.

*The President* : We will hear that report.

*Mr. Price* (Allegheny) : The Committee have decided to recommend to the Convention, that we leave here at eleven o'clock to-morrow morning, taking dinner at the school and coming back, and we ask you to approve of our report.

*Mr. Brumbaugh* (Blair) : I move we adopt the report.

Motion seconded.

*Mr. Glenn* (Allegheny) : I am opposed to that, as you may cut us off from seeing Brother Carr.

*Mr. Carr* (Fayette) : It appears to me that by a little rapid work this afternoon, and to-night, we can get through with the programme, [and then Col. Glenn's motion may prevail. We can go out and back by eleven o'clock. I think we can get through this evening ; go out to the almshouse and then start for the mountain.

*The President* : The motion before the house is : Shall the report of the Committee be adopted ?

The motion is adopted.

*Mr. Sypher* (Philadelphia) : I move the consideration of the question as to going to the almshouse at 8:30 in the morning be postponed until this evening.

The motion was seconded and adopted.



*Mr. Herr:* I think we are drifting into confusion. The officers have given us a programme and I think it should be carried through.

*The President:* We will now hear the paper of Mr. Brown, on the subject of the township or overseer system.

*Mr. Brown:*

TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF THE PENNSYLVANIA  
STATE ASSOCIATION OF DIRECTORS OF THE POOR :

To me has been assigned the duty of submitting some suggestions upon the subject of the township, or overseer system, of caring for the poor, which embraces those districts not provided with almshouses.

The Directory for 1888, issued by the State Committee on Lunacy, shows that there are eighteen counties in the State in which there is neither a county, district or local almshouse.

In them the poor are cared for by the township or district overseers, who are elected in their respective districts with power to collect and disburse a tax levied for that purpose in such manner as in their judgments will most humanely provide for the poor of every class who become the objects of their care.

This, in the absence of an almshouse, must necessarily be done in one of three ways, namely: 1st, Rent, or purchase a house and employ a keeper to care for the poor, at public expense; 2nd, They may contract with some person in the district to take and support them at specified rates under the inspection of the overseers. Or, in the 3rd place, they may send them to some almshouse outside of their county, where they may be kept at the expense of their respective districts (if it is possible to find such district to take them).

In considering this subject I do not take into consideration what is known as "Outside aid," which must necessarily become a part of every merciful and frugal system of poor relief.

The first system suggested, if properly conducted, may be humane but it cannot be economic. The number of inmates must necessarily be comparatively few, and the pro rata expense—which includes rent (or interest)—wages of employes as well as board, clothing, &c., of the poor—must of necessity be very high. Besides, it is rare if ever that a building can be found available that is adapted for such a purpose. Under the most favorable circumstances, the proper care of the poor in this way must, when compared with other systems of the present day and age, be considered as one of the early pioneer

systems, when the needs of the poor had to be provided for at a great inconvenience, and kept on a meagre provision such as would be tolerated under the existing circumstances for the times.

The second system mentioned, viz., the contract system, is to me the most objectionable of all. The very idea of putting up the poor, infirm, helpless and often weak-minded wards of the public, to be bid for, and then turning them over to be kept by the lowest bidder, is repugnant to every kind, charitable, Christian impulse of our common nature, and not in accord with our more civilized and beneficent system—for the best qualified by nature and education to have the care of these helpless objects of public charity would seldom if ever be the lowest bidders (for only the heartless would scrimp the poor), it may indeed be cheap, but it can have no other merit. Instances may be found, perhaps, where the poor are well cared for under this system, but, if so, it is good by accident, generally bad by system.

The remaining system is that of having the dependent poor kept in some established almshouse outside the district. The improbability of finding an almshouse in a near or adjacent county (if anywhere), that has available room for that purpose, for any length of time, is so great, that it is hardly worth while to canvass its merits. The principal objection to such a method would be the transportation, the impossibility of constant supervision, the lack of any voice or influence in the management of the institution. To me this system seems impracticable, and while so, is not advisable.

Other matters of vital importance would be in opposition to the various counties who are practising the township and overseers system. Tracing pauperism back to their original township, or home; litigation arising from same sources, through Directors of the Poor or County Commissioners who are filling the office of Directors.

Now the question arises, "What changes should then be made to remedy the evils of the township or overseer system?" To me there seems but one (which must be apparent to all of you), and that is to abolish the township system and make each separate county a Poor District, governed and controlled by directors elected by the voters of the whole county. If that is done each county can have its own almshouse, conducted by its own superintendent chosen by the Directors of the Poor, who are elected by the people, and which will be inspected from time to time by the Board of Charities, and the grand juries of their respective counties.

This system, wherever tried, has met the universal approval of the people, and must, it seems to me, evidently become universal.

In my opinion there should be but one system of caring for the poor in this commonwealth. I hope and trust that the Delegates of this Convention will carefully canvass the merits of the various methods that may be suggested, and when they have determined which in their judgments is the best, they will take the necessary steps to have it adopted and made universal throughout the State.

WM. M. BROWN,

*Supt. Erie County Almshouse, Pa.*

*Mr. McGonnigle:* I have been bothered a great deal with this township system of relief, and although I am not on the programme, I concluded I would write something about the township system. When I was an officer connected with the Allegheny City Poor Board, we had more difficulty in settling cases that would happen to fall on our hands that belonged to the township system, than we had in settling and disposing of cases that belonged to the county system, or a system where they had an established almshouse, and two or three directors to look after it:

MR. PRESIDENT—I beg leave to submit to you the following:—

When our general poor law was enacted in 1836, the majority of the counties in this State were supporting their poor by the township or overseer system, and at this date there are in this State 18 counties still supporting their poor by this system; by the “township” or “overseer” system, I mean the system where no almshouses are provided, and where two overseers are elected in each township annually, whose duties are to look after all of the dependents who may become a charge upon their respective districts. In many instances, the person who is “put on the township,” as it is commonly expressed, is “boarded out” at the expense of the township to the *lowest bidder*. This means that the pauper is to be cared for, as cheaply as possible, without reference to any comforts whatever, and any one who is at all familiar with what this means, in all its surroundings, will appreciate what I have just stated without any further explanation. In my judgment the entire overseer system should be abolished, and I believe that if this were to be done, the various townships would save largely in the amount now expended for the support of the poor.

By this system every township in the county is a separate poor district, and as a result, there is litigation going on continually between the various townships, concerning the settlement for persons who have become a charge upon their townships, and in this way



thousands of dollars are expended annually that would otherwise be saved.

If every county that is now operating under the township system were made in one poor district, this litigation would be avoided, and the money that is expended in this way could be applied for the support and care of the poor in an almshouse, erected by the entire county. I have yet to know of one instance where, in my judgment, the overseer system was the proper way of providing for the care of the poor, and in this connection I could refer to a case that came under my own observation.

In one of the counties of this State, supporting their poor by the township system, a certain man resided for quite a number of years in two townships, part of the time in one, and part of the time in the other, paying taxes in both townships, and being employed under wages in both townships at different periods. He became a charge on one of them, and they immediately removed him to the other, stating that that was his place of legal settlement. This township then removed him to a district in an adjoining county, stating that this was the place of his legal settlement. The order of removal was appealed from in this instance, and he was removed to the township from which he had first been removed. This litigation cost the township and the other district several hundred dollars, to say nothing at all of his expenses of maintenance. The two townships then took up the matter of litigation, and after spending several hundred dollars more, the old gentleman was again returned to the township from which he had first become a charge, and at last accounts was being "boarded around" where he could be provided for at the least possible expense, without regard to any of the proper requirements of his case. Had this county been one entire poor district, there would have been no question whatever as to his place of settlement being within the county, but on account of the townships being separate poor districts, the question of his settlement was disputed, and was not finally determined until after the expenditure of several hundred dollars, and some eighteen months time, at the end of which time the pauper was not any better provided for than he was originally.

To my mind, this sort of proceeding is entirely unnecessary, and can and should be avoided. Leaving out the matter of the proper maintenance of the poor in the townships, the question of cost of administration is one that should be considered, and I believe that you will bear me out in saying that it is anything but economical in its workings. Take a county which consists of twenty (20) town-



ships, all of which are separate poor districts, and each of which has two overseers; this would make forty (40) overseers of the poor in the county, each of which overseers are allowed about \$1.00 per day for the time they spend in looking after the poor in their various townships. Allowing each overseer of the poor to spend thirty (30) days of the year, the amount of money expended for this one item would amount annually to \$1,200.00, to say nothing whatever of the incidental expenses connected with the work. I know of no county in the State where there is an almshouse, and where the salaries of the directors amount to within fifty (50) per cent. of this amount.

In another instance that came under my own observation, an old man was a charge on a township, and the citizens of the township objected most seriously to having to pay for his maintenance. After some time a barn or out-building belonging to one of the overseers was destroyed by fire. The old man (who was a charge on the township) was immediately arrested, and in short order convicted of arson and committed to the Western Penitentiary, where he remained for several years, and the township was relieved from the cost of his support. After his discharge from that institution, he was taken back on an order of removal to the township where the crime that he was convicted of was committed, and where he had a place of legal settlement. The sentiment throughout that country was, that this old man had been sent to the penitentiary to relieve the township of his support and maintenance. How true this is I do not know, but I do know that it was the wish of the authorities of that township that he had died in the penitentiary. Their conduct in this case was a disgrace to our community, and I believe that it is not an unparalleled case.

At the last session of the Supreme Court in this State, in the case of *Gilpin township vs. Park township, Armstrong county*, Alexander Williams, a colored man, moved into Park township, where he earned a living for himself and his family. The overseer of Park township concluded that he would eventually become a charge on their community, and to prevent this expense, they removed him under an order of removal to Gilpin township, where they said he had a legal settlement. Williams had never been a charge on the township, and the first notice that he had of the proceeding was when he was informed that he and his family had to go to Gilpin township, and they were all removed there too, Williams stating that it reminded him of old times when he was a slave. The Supreme Court held that his removal was illegal.

This case doubtless cost several hundred dollars in litigation, and all of which would have been avoided had Armstrong county been one entire poor district.

The above instances give an idea of how the overseers of these townships generally perform their duties, their principal object being to relieve the township of the support of any persons, without reference to whether the proceeding is the proper one or not, and I cannot see any occasion in our State for any person who is poor, or who is likely to become a charge being treated as Alexander Williams was, and which he so aptly stated "reminded him of slavery days."

*Mr. Herr* (Lancaster): I move that both of those reports be adopted and placed upon the record in full.

Motion seconded.

*Mr. Long*: I was about to amend that, and would suggest that both those papers be printed in the proceedings and referred to the Committee on Legislation.

Substitute accepted and motion adopted.

*Mr. Brumbaugh* (Blair): The county of Blair, lying adjacent to two counties who have the overseer system, realizes the fact that it makes us a great deal of trouble and inconvenience. We have a great many cases to settle that are very unpleasant to deal with, and we made it an object of study to ascertain whether the township system or the county system was the better. We went to Center county, in which we had two or three cases, one an insane case that was carried around into three of four counties, and at last lodged on our county. And we went to the Commissioners and examined the facts that were laid before us, and we inquired into the organization. It costs the County of Center, a county of less population than Blair, two-and-a-half times as much as ours to keep their poor. They expended about thirty-five thousand dollars by the township system—they said it didn't always occur—and that was during the year 1886. A majority of the people in the county, I believe, would be satisfied to have an almshouse, but they haven't submitted it to the Legislature. In Clearfield county, in which we had one or two cases, I presume the county would have adopted the county system if it hadn't been for the great number, the county is a large mining county, and some of

the districts had a great burden to carry while others were comparatively light; but it came to a vote a few years ago and a majority voted against establishing an almshouse. But we ascertained in Houtzdale, for instance, and in that mining district, that the expenses for keeping their poor were enormous—a great burden, and that in two or three cases they could not provide for them. The only trouble is we have so many parties to deal with and nearly every county employs its attorneys, and we have a whole host of attorneys to contend with, and in two or three cases they take us for a set of rascals and heap a lot of abuse on us before they let us know what they want, but in these cases we remind them that if it is our case we will submit at once. Taking it all in all, I would say by all means have the Committee on Legislation recommend the abolishing of the overseer system, and get the State under one universal county system.

*Mr. Kell (Perry):* One of our neighboring counties uses the overseer system, and as has already been said, we find more difficulty in settling our affairs than ever. I remember we had a family in our county, and the father was called killed in a stone-quarry, and the family was brought to the institution. When the older boy of the family was free he went into a neighboring county and sometime after he came to the institution and took his mother, expecting to maintain her. Only last week I received a letter from the overseer of this township into which they had moved, stating that an inmate of our institution was a charge on their county, and we should take charge of her. Now that son is capable of maintaining the mother, but inasmuch as the overseer system is established, they are not permitted to obtain residence there. Now the fault is that those townships that can least afford it, have the most to keep; that's the case in this county I referred to. That is the case in many places where the people live along the mountain, and where there are a great many poor. I have been told that the poor tax rate was fifteen mills in some of these places. In these townships where they could least afford it they have had the question before the county and a vote taken as to whether they would have a poor house, and it was voted down. Hence you see that townships that can least afford it, have the most poor to keep, and have very little money to spend in that direction.



*Mr. Hunker (Allegheny):* In connection with this system I will relate a case pending with me. In January, 1887, there was returned from one of the townships of Armstrong a blind man who became chargeable there. On investigating the case I found he had no settlement with us, and I took an appeal at once. The pauper remained in our institution until November, and his son sent after him and took him back into Armstrong county, and here about two weeks ago I got the same man back on an order of removal from an institution that is a part of the same township, and I will now have to take out an appeal and fight two cases, whereas if it had been a county institution, I would have only the one appeal to take.

*Mr. Sloan (Washington):* I want to endorse the papers read by the gentlemen from Pittsburgh and Erie, because my experience as a director for nine years would fully corroborate all that has been said. We have had an experience in the same line to our cost. We have had an experience that cost us a great deal of money, and that experience grew out of a case where the person was a resident of this district in Armstrong county for seventeen years, and in all those seventeen years, having arrived at majority and was voting in the county under the poor laws of the State of Pennsylvania, we could not fix a residence for the man; he never paid ten dollars. His tax was paid every two years, and they voted him right along. These experiences are uncalled for, and if there ever was a time in the history of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, when the avenue seemed open for a general law regulating the whole question in Pennsylvania in regard to our poor laws, that time has fully come. It should be a careful revision, and all those emergencies should be met. I trust that the committee in charge will have an enlightenment that will enable them to lay before the coming Legislature all grievances that may exist. I feel that they can accomplish that matter, and have the co-operation of the Governor of the State, and that they will so legislate the poor laws that we can understand the running of the machine.

*Mr. Brumbaugh (Blair):* I wish to relate an instance of a year ago, which one of our directors here became a party to. About two years prior to that time, a widow with a son and daughter



moved into a township belonging to Center county, and had lived there, paid her rent, and her son furnished a livelihood for the family. It got out that this family was a very poor family, and that it might perhaps become a charge upon that township. So the wise overseer, on his own responsibility, went to work and got out an order of removal, and was about to remove the family into our county again. He came to Mr. Lowden with the order of removal, and that gentleman says, "We won't remove that family, they don't wish to come, and you have no power to remove them." He said, "We will remove them, they must come over." So we notified them that if they attempted to do anything of that kind, we would appeal to the law. The young man was gaining a livelihood there, and everything was running along smoothly up to this time. The fact is that the young man was able to provide for his mother, and will probably be so in the future. We have never heard anything more about it. This illustrates the fact that you will find parties like this anticipating trouble, when there is no necessity for removal.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* That corresponds with my experience, where a man had lived in Butler county for twenty years, between two townships, where he had paid taxes, voted and worked, and done every thing that entitled him to a settlement there. Finally, when things came to the worst, the two townships got to quarrelling, and they removed him to Allegheny county. That case caused us unnecessary trouble and annoyance, and it struck me forcibly what Mr. Kell said that under this overseer system it is impossible for a person to gain a settlement, and in fact deprives the person of relief if they need it. The overseers move them here and there, and don't allow them to gain a settlement. That is contrary to the intention of the poor laws, as I understand them. If a person is entitled to relief, he should get some place, but if you keep him moving you are making a mockery of the law, as Mr. Glenn says. Now is the time to bring it to the front, and let people understand that the poor laws must be enforced. The law is not lived up to, and as soon as the public have their attention called to the matter the better. I am glad Mr. Brown has started the discussion, and he has brought out some good points.

*Mr. Price* (Allegheny): I would like to hear the report of the Committee on Legislation. They have made some progress, and probably they have anticipated this discussion, and are ready to submit some propositions.

*Mr. Roney* (Philadelphia): I desire to ask for information, if there has been any remedy suggested to overcome these township laws. I desire to say we have no desire for any change in the poor law as regards the poor in the city of Philadelphia. It is working very satisfactorily there, and our business in relation to the poor of other counties is always settled there satisfactorily with those with whom we have any business. In as far as the laws of Philadelphia county are concerned, I don't think there is any desire to change, but I think the Convention ought to suggest what the remedy is if there is any fault to be found.

*Mr. McGonnigle*: Would it not be well to pass a resolution that it is the sense of the Convention that the overseer system is not proper, and should be abolished.

*Mr. Brumbaugh* (Blair): Wouldn't that be proper for the Legislative Committee, perhaps they have recommended something of the kind.

*Mr. McGonnigle* offered the following: "RESOLVED, That it is the sense of this Association, that the method of caring for the poor in townships where the overseer system is in vogue, is defective, and that the Committee on Legislation be instructed to take the necessary steps to bring about a uniform system, and abolish the entire township system."

*Mr. Crout* (Germantown): We are a township, and we think we have a house equal to any in the State, and we oppose such a sweeping resolution to abolish it; and we think we should be heard. Before we would permit our system to be wiped out, we would make a fight. I do not think it is the wish of the members to affect us in that way. We are just about building a large addition, and the condition of the inmates would compare favorably with other houses. Isn't there some merit about townships if conducted in a proper manner? Don't the neighbors know something about those poor brought up with them, and understanding their wants, don't they understand their case much better than people living in a remote part of the county? I can only

speaking for our own inmates; they are principally old and infirm, and feeble-minded, brought up in our community, and I know they are quite as well cared for as they would otherwise be.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* There was no intention to interfere with such almshouses as Mr. Crout represents. We know it is well kept, but the overseer system as existing in counties like Butler, Clearfield, Elk or Clarion, means something altogether different. Of course, there are exceptions, and there are places where the work is done properly. It is meant to abolish the system where we have no almshouse accommodations for any of the poor. Of course there are places where the work is done as well as if the county was in one district. But in these other places they bid them or auction them off to the lowest bidder.

*Mr. Roney (Philadelphia):* I will amend the motion as made by the Corresponding Secretary, and that is to say, "In counties or towns where there are no almshouses," and I think that will obviate the difficulty.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

*The President:* We have here the report of the Committee on Legislation, which the Secretary will please read:

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION.

##### TO THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DIRECTORS OF THE POOR:

GENTLEMEN:—Your Committee on Legislation would respectfully report that they have had under consideration the subject of the revision of the general poor laws of this state.

Our first impression was that the task would be an easy one, but upon examination we found that it would involve considerable expense and labor. At the time that the general poor law was adopted in 1836, the majority of the counties in this State had not yet established almshouses, and the poor in the larger number of the counties were provided for under the overseer or township system; as the various counties have been desirous of erecting almshouses, they have had special acts passed giving them the necessary authority to purchase lands, erect buildings, etc., together with such other special authority as might be required in their particular localities. As the result of this, the statute books are filled with special poor laws, some of which confer authority upon particular districts, and



which should be granted to all. In some of the poor districts, the directors are allowed a liberal compensation ; in others, the compensation is very small while the duties of the office are fully as exacting as the duties of the offices in those districts where the directors are allowed the more liberal compensation. In some of the districts, the directors are required to receive every person committed to the almshouse on an order signed by a justice of the peace ; in other districts, the directors can accept or reject as they see fit, while again in others the justices of the peace do not commit to the almshouse at all, and the matter is one that is attended to by the directors. In a majority of the districts three members constitute the Board of Directors ; while in other districts the board varies from five to thirteen. The fees allowed the justices of the peace and other officers in connection with the commitment of persons to almshouses are also larger in some districts than they are in others. We find also that special authority has been given in some of the counties regarding the physician service and attendance to persons outside of the almshouses. In short, we find that there are scarcely two districts in this State that are governed by exactly the same laws.

After considering the matter fully, your committee is of the opinion that it would be useless for this Association, owing to the limited means at their command, to take up the subject of the revision of the poor laws, or to make any attempt as an Association to revise or codify the laws relative to the care and maintenance of the dependent classes. We feel satisfied that this end can only be accomplished by means of a commission to be appointed by the Governor of the State, under act of legislature, and providing for an appropriation sufficient to pay the expenses necessary in connection with the work, this commission to consist of members, and to be empowered to make a thorough investigation of the poor law administration in this State, and further that they have authority to prepare such a code of laws as in their judgment would meet the requirements of the case. We have made inquiries as to the prospect of securing such legislation at the next session of our legislature, and we feel safe in saying that with the proper indorsement of this Association, Governor Beaver will present the matter to the legislature in his next annual message, and urge them to take some steps in the matter, and we have no doubt whatever that the necessary authority will be granted authorizing the appointment of such a commission. We believe that such a commission after proper investigation would be able to prepare a code of laws that would be applicable to all the poor districts in this



State, and which would very much improve the management, care and support of the dependent classes in our State. We herewith submit for your consideration a resolution which we think meets the requirements of the case.

Respectfully submitted,

S. H. FRENCH,

J. R. SYPHER,

W. M. BROWN,

ROBT. D. MCGONNIGLE,

*Committee on Legislation.*

*Resolved,* That the Committee on Legislation be and they are hereby authorized to call the attention of Governor Beaver to the necessity of the revision of the general poor laws of this State, and to request that he present the matter to the legislature in his next annual message, urging upon the legislature to authorize the appointment of a commission of not less than — members to investigate the entire subject of poor law administration in this State and to prepare such a code of laws as in their judgment would be necessary to meet the requirements of the case.

*Mr. Price (Allegheny):* I move the acceptance of the report, and the adoption of the resolution, filling the blank in with "7."

Motion seconded and adopted.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* In connection with that I received a number of communications from members of our Association as to what suggestions they would have to make in this connection, that is what legislation they would need in their various localities.

Here is one from Erie county :

ERIE, PA., October 15th, 1888.

HENRY DUNN, ESQ.,

DIRECTOR OF THE POOR OF ERIE CO.

DEAR SIR:—As you are a delegate to the State Convention of Poor Directors which is soon to meet at Uniontown, I take the liberty of making a few suggestions to you upon one of the most important subjects that will come before the Convention, viz: That of remedying the defects that exist in the laws regulating the management of the poor in this Commonwealth. Nearly all of the faults that exist are, in my opinion, traceable, either directly or indirectly to the want of a uniform system of management.

In many counties of the State, the care and support of the poor is regulated by local or special acts ; and however defective or inadequate such laws may be, it is next to impossible to make any change on account of the constitutional prohibition against local legislation.

Some districts are satisfied with the laws that are in force in their respective counties, and will oppose any attempt to change them.

How then can the evils be remedied? In my opinion the most feasible way to accomplish that purpose would be for the Convention of Poor Directors to take the necessary steps to have the *general* poor laws of the State codified, revising and perfecting them so that the general laws regulating the management, care and support of the poor will be as near perfect as possible and take the necessary steps to have the same enacted by the next legislature with a clause repealing all existing *general* laws on the subject that in any way conflict.

There ought not to be, and probably would not be any opposition to such a general act, if its provisions are right, because it will not affect any district or county in which the affairs of the poor are managed under the provisions of local or special acts.

After such general act is passed, then any county which desires to do so, can come under its provisions by having the local acts relating to such county repealed.

In this way, it seems to me, all friction and local opposition can be avoided, and at the same time an easy way will be provided for those districts, in which the existing laws are defective or unsatisfactory (as is the case in this county) to get rid of the evils they have now to contend with.

Respectfully yours,

E. P. GOULD.

*Mr. McGonnigle :* Here is something from Mr. Herr, of Lancaster county :

#### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO POOR LAW.

*First.* The legislature should authorize the payment by the various poor districts of the expense incurred by said districts in attending the annual meetings of the Association.

*Second.* The old and feeble paupers (who are not able to work), should be prohibited from wandering from one district to another, and it should be made the duty of the Constable to arrest all such persons, and vagrants, proper compensation being allowed them for such service.

*Third.* The State authorities having claimed that the insane are the wards of the State, legislation should be had compelling the State to assume the entire cost of their maintenance.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* I understood that in some of the counties the Auditors have objected to paying the estimates of the directors of the poor in regard to the expense of the meeting. I know of one county where the bill was refused by the auditors and the Board of Directors informed them that the meeting was attended in pursuance of directions of the Board of Public Charities, and after this the bill was paid. But we will have to contend with that until we get some legislation on the subject. As I understand it, the Superintendent of the Public Schools in each county are required to hold an annual convention, and their expenses are provided for by law. That same thing should be arranged in the poor law revision.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* My suggestion was that the committee on legislation should take in these other questions as they come up in this Convention. I presume they are discharged now, and the report has been accepted, but there ought to be something in our report, the additional report so that we can get the whole matter before the Legislature.

*Mr. Brown (Erie):* Mr. President, in regard to the poor laws in Erie county, we have had considerable friction there. Now in our county this very item of attending the Convention has come up and the auditors have refused to pass that appropriation. In regard to compensation for our directors there was a deficiency there. The directors were allowed fifty dollars a year for their services, and those services are a great deal. They have to spend from fifty to sixty or seventy days a year in moving around and taking care of the poor of the county, and this very small amount was the compensation allowed for each of the directors. In looking the law over, I find we are laboring under a local law, and the court has decided that fifty dollars is all they can receive. It seems like an utter impossibility for those directors to attend to that duty for that amount of money. The two outside directors can make the compensation so that it gives them a chance to make something out of it. I think those two things in Erie county, if they were remedied, would make it as good as in some other places where the directors get three dollars a day.

*Mr. Shipman* (Allegheny): In regard to local legislation I would like to suggest some remedy, or would like to see some law enacted to provide a remedy that would enable us to reach a certain class of people in Allegheny City. We are greatly troubled there with a certain class of people not providing for their parents; children who are working and earning wages and making no provision for the father or mother. When they marry they cast these folks off, and then they ask to go to the poor house or the Home. Now we have no law that will directly reach them. We have had some little redress by applying to the Humane agent, and citing those children before the Court to answer why they don't provide for their father and mother. Now, we have another class; we have a great many people there who have come from across the water; from Germany; from Ireland; from Scotland; from Wales and those countries. We have had quite a number of cases where the children, the old man and the old woman have been evicted from their homes, and were paid to come in this country by the aid and assistance of money furnished by the government. Some of those old men come to their children; they send for them and bring them over here. They never pay a cent of taxes, they have never rented any homes, and they have no settlements. Now, they must be provided for, we cannot let them die in the streets, and they want to go to the Home. Now, there ought to be some law suggested by that Legislative Committee wherein we would get relief from that. We have in the City of Allegheny quite a number of that class of people, and they belong to that indolent class, and I don't suppose they were ever of much account at home, and after they arrive at fifty years of age they are dumped over in this country to be supported. When they land in New York they have, maybe, ten or twenty dollars in their pockets, and that induces them to come to Pittsburgh and other cities, and when they reach their destination they have no money. Necessarily they must set out to seek employment to enable them to earn a livelihood. It is well known that that class of people are old and feeble and not able to do much. When a man contracts for a workman he selects able-bodied men who are able to do a great deal more labor than these old people are. The consequence is, under the strict competition, those that are not able to do the



required amount of work are not employed. There is no work then for the old men. What are we to do with that class of people? We have them in the ward I live in. I know there are nearly fifty old men of that class unable to get work, owing to the great competition; they cannot do work and compete with the able-bodied class. Those men have given all the energies of their young manhood to build up the government they came from, and why should we be compelled, as the working people of this government, to support that class. I think that the directors that are assembled here to-day ought to use their voices to make some improvement upon the law, and by their action impress upon the law-making powers that that class of people should stop coming here. There should be a law enacted by the government to prohibit that class of old people coming into this country, unless the children would give some security that they would not become paupers upon the district to which they move. Now, we have no other remedy only to send them back, and we cannot send them back unless they are willing to go back. The children bring them in here, pay their passage, and as they are working at jobs they think they will support the old man or the old lady, but after a few years, maybe in one or two years, they get married, and they have a little family of their own, and then there is no room for the old folks. They have been of no use to this country, in building up this country, but have given all the energy of their lives in building that country from which they are shipped. I say why should we, as the people of this country, be compelled to support that class. Now the day is fast arriving when we will have a class of that kind of people to a very large extent, and they will become a burden on all the people who have to work, and they have to keep that class of people. There should be some way to reach that class, and I don't know of any better way than to get an expression of opinion from those here who are overseers of the poor, who have charge of them, and who know the state of affairs, and bring the matter about so that we would have some law enacted that would restrict that class from coming into this country. And we certainly should have some law enacted whereby we could reach a class of young men who are making from three to four dollars a day, and whereby we could compel them to give their earnings, or a portion, to the support of their father and

mother. We have no remedy, unless a man can be compelled by the Court to give something, and even then, the very next day maybe, he might quit his work and go some place else. That doesn't take the old man or old woman away, however, and they are simply a charge upon the district. Of course there are many cases and instances where they cannot do anything. A man that has a wife and five or six children, and is receiving only a dollar and a half a day, it is all he can do to keep himself and family. I say we should have some redress, and that soon.

*Mr. Culp* (Venango) : I believe there is a law that holds the children or grand-children responsible for the support of the parents. At least we are going to try to make one man do so by a law-suit, if the man don't pay the bill. The instance is this: A man who has a large farm and considerable money out on interest sent his mother, who is past eighty-three years of age, to our almshouse last June, and the Commissioners, who are our poor directors, sent the bill to him to pay for her maintenance, and he refused to pay it; consequently, we expect to have a trial of it in our county, and the Commissioners intend to make him pay it if they can.

*Mr. Hoffman* (Pittsburgh) : There is a Committee on Immigration appointed by Congress to meet about the 15th of November, at Pittsburgh, and I think it would be well for these people to attend and give their testimony there.

*Mr. Sypher* (Phila.) : It is clearly the law that the parents must take care of their children in the first place, and the children must take care of their parents in the second, and all you have to do is to enforce the law. That case cited, that is to be brought in Venango county, will be won of course. The son has no right to discard his mother; nor has any son a right to discard his father. And when they are old and not able to work they should protect them and appropriate money for their care and maintenance. If they can't take care of them at home, if the father and mother have a separate little home, the children must provide money for their support. That section that was read by the lawyer in Lancaster, about taking care, or rather authorizing constables to arrest tramps or paupers, who are going around from place to place, that is the law also, now. A constable has a right, without any infor-

mation from anybody, and simply upon view, to arrest a tramp or a person he supposes to be a tramp, and take him before a magistrate and have him tried, and if the facts warrant, to have him committed, if not, he is discharged. A great many suggestions made to-day are in the line of what is the law. The fact is that the legislation of Pennsylvania is wonderfully ample and complete, but it is also wonderfully confusing in its enactments. A Philadelphia lawyer has considerable trouble sometimes in answering the question what the law is on any question brought up. It is sometimes that difficult to tell that the city solicitor is sometimes unable to tell what the law is, and he often misses it woefully. The object of the legislation sought for ought to be to gather up all the laws, and parts of laws that have been enacted in the State of Pennsylvania, and bring them together; strike out the obsolete, strike out the parts that are useless, and digest the matter into a complete form, and have that enacted. I apprehend there will be no new law required, but just simply the old law brought down and codified. The law now is with reference to these counties that they may, on complying with certain provisions, resolve themselves into a county, erect an almshouse and go on in the regular way.

Perhaps some change will be wanted then in organizing those into counties and compelling them to adopt the county system. This is also the case with the school law. The school law was enacted to take effect as the people should vote for it, and in some of the townships, as late as 1856, they had not come into the county system. But in the year 1856 the law was codified, and every township was then forced into the line, and all the townships in the State were brought under the common school system. This poor law system was to be taken up piecemeal by the several townships, and as we have been progressing long enough, we have come to the conclusion that it is time to stretch the blanket over the whole. And no one who examines the law in this Commonwealth can come to any other conclusion, that the time has come now when the blanket should be stretched across the Commonwealth, and Governor Beaver says as much in his letter. He clearly intimates that if we will express ourselves plainly and to



the point, that he will recommend the pauper question in his message, and will try to secure its enactment. I think things look in a fair way for triumphant movement in that direction now.

*Mr. Colborn* (Somerset): There is no doubt that the poor laws should be revised and codified, but how this is to be done is the question. Nearly every county in the State has a special law under which it is organized. It will not be so easy to every county in the State to consent to do away with a special law and go under a general law. Now the general law of 1887, we voted on that in our county, and it didn't receive a respectable recognition by the people in the county. They say that law makes it too expensive, that it might do in large places where they have a great many poor, and where they receive a great deal of money from taxation to support that, but in the country it is too expensive. It provides for six directors, the salary of which shall be one hundred each. It provides for a physician, whose pay shall be from three to five hundred dollars a year, and it provides for a number of things that would be too expensive to a backwoods county. Besides that, we have some counties in the State that support the poor under the law of 1836, by letting them out as we do contracts, to the lowest bidder. Now then, the question comes to us, how can we codify these laws so that all will come under one head? Unless there should be a General Act of Assembly passed for the governing of the poor all over the State, I don't see any other way by which we could bring about a codifying of the poor laws. Then to begin with, we have so many laws passed by which the Board of Public Charities say, "You shall do this, and you shan't do that." Then the Committee of Lunacy have certain laws by which they say, "You shall do this, and you shan't do that." All these matters seem to conflict so that it would be almost impossible unless you were willing to wipe out everything and make a new law entirely, for the governing of the poor in the State of Pennsylvania, to get at the remedies suggested. Now, beyond question, the salary of fifty dollars a year is a pitiable sum, but it used to be twenty, and it was raised to fifty. They are not allowed any expenses for visiting throughout the county at all. They meet once every month, and they spend the whole day there. Surely they are not doing it for the compensation in it, when they only receive fifty dollars a year. This is entirely too small. Another



thing, the name of our poor house is called by the name of "House of Employment of Somerset County." That to me seems ridiculous. To call it a House of Employment of Somerset County, when the people are so poor that they couldn't live without that to save them, and they are such a class of people that couldn't do very much if you did want to employ them, or found employment for them to do. All these questions must be taken up. Every one feels the need of this, but how to arrive at some conclusion seems to have bothered this Convention for the past three or four years. We all see the necessity of it at home, yet our law is very good in many respects, but should be changed. Just how to have it changed seems to be the conclusion we must arrive at properly.

*Mr. Shipman (Allegheny):* In our district we don't get anything at all; we are not paid at all, and the only compensation we get is that we get our door-bell rung about every half hour in the day, and as far as meetings are concerned, there are generally about four a month, from two to four, and we generally visit somebody every day.

*Mr. Hope (Chester):* There is another class spoken of to-day—I might say two classes of young men—boys who are criminals because of great pressure brought upon them, and who come to our Courts to be sentenced, but they are a class of people that are not improved by being sentenced to the jail; and yet there is another class of incorrigible children whom the Ladies' Aid Society have trouble in finding homes for, and there seems to be no place for them. There appears to be no place where they would like to put these children under any circumstances. Now take these two classes together, and I think it would be a good plan to have a Reformatory School, or say two or three or four counties, as the case may require, join together and have these schools where these young people might be sentenced by the Court, or may be put by the Ladies' Aid Society, and where they can be taught, so that they may become fit for good citizens, and be able to earn a livelihood. It seems to me that that is what is needed now, because these young men or boys are sentenced to jail they stay there for a few months, and when they come out the stigma of "jail-bird" is upon them, and they cannot get employment. They are cast out of society, and perhaps have no friends or home, and they are very

apt to go back to crime, even worse than before. This is a thing that should be considered by this Convention, the practicability of establishing schools of that kind.

*Mr. Cope (Westmoreland):* This matter of revising our laws is, I think, is a proper subject for our Convention to consider. I think we should give expression here to the points that are defective. This action that is recommended here, the carrying out of which is in the hands of the commission, should be so taken that the commission would receive thereby same instruction by the different Poor Boards throughout the counties as to wherein our present laws are defective, in order that a law may be passed to suit all cases. I should like to hear from this Convention in relation to the matter, and have the deficiencies in our present laws pointed out, then we can come at something practical. For my part I came here to listen and be instructed. I am a new hand at the business, and I think we are working under the general law. I think there are some deficiencies in the law that could be remedied greatly to the benefit of the taxpayers of the county. Still it is necessary for us to see to the poor and care for them. It is also necessary for the people of the county to be protected from scoundrels. There are people in other counties as well as our own that will take advantage of the county treasury wherever they can, different grades of people, high and low. I think there ought to be a modification in the general law in the form of making an information for the removal or the relief of a pauper. Under the general law, the pauper can make the information himself, he may go before two Justices of the Peace, but he generally goes before one, although the law requires two of them to sign the order, but one carries it to the other, and he may make this information. In some localities very often they are hunted up by Justices of the Peace, and I rather suspect—although I wouldn't say for certain—that it is because there is a fee in it. The information is not made under oath. I think it would be necessary that this information should be required to be made by one or two reputable citizens, and under oath. I think, if that were the case, the counties would not be imposed on quite so much. Then again, I think the counties should be protected against doctors, physicians, that is, I mean under our system in Westmoreland county, where they allow outdoor relief and medical relief. Their practice there is

rather expensive to us, that is, some of them, they don't all do that. They make a practice of attending to some poor people, and then come to the County Home and demand pay; some of them make a business of that, and I think the law is a little lame in that particular. While it is our duty to see that every person who, by accident or otherwise, needs medical aid, to furnish that, it ought to be furnished at the expense of the county when it is actually needed, and in that case the county will be protected against imposition, and the matter should be regulated. I think we should have the doctors, I mean the outside doctors, where they are called in a case of emergency to attend a patient, that they should report that patient immediately to the Board of Directors, and the Board then might allow that physician to go ahead or dismiss him. It is our practice to appoint physicians in the different districts throughout the county, and pay them a certain salary a year. But there are other physicians that run into other districts where they know that others are appointed, and hunt up paupers and poor people, attend to them, give them medical aid, and in a few days come to the County Home with a bill. I say there are persons who make a practice of that. I think there should be some restriction put upon that practice by law, in order to protect the taxpayers of the county. I don't know whether the rest of you have experiences of that kind or not. I would like to hear from the Convention in regard to these points.

*Mr. Berg:* There is another question that something ought to be said about first. There is a class of men who have families, some three, four, five or six children, and they go away and leave their families unprovided for, and in many cases the families fall on our poor districts. We find it a difficult matter to hunt up these criminals, and I there should be a stringent law in regard to such people. We could not find any jurisdiction in our county where we could punish them. I hope this Convention will make some suggestion to remedy that evil.

*Mr. Morrow:* As attorney for the Directors of the Poor for the County of Fayette, I ask leave to make a few suggestions. I have been the local adviser of this Board for eight years, and have had occasion to study poor laws to some extent, but my study of the poor laws has been confined to our local law. As to the outside poor laws, I must confess I do not know very much about them,



as there are so many local laws throughout the State. I believe that is true of others in the State too, and I take it that it is true of nearly all the directors in the State; they know the local law, the law pertaining to their own district, whether it is a township, borough or city, but they know very little of the proceedings outside of their topographical lines. I might suggest a few changes that ought to be made in the law. Older people of the Convention will remember that prior to 1860, the criminal law of this State was spread throughout the pamphlet laws, and when a person went into a lawyer's office to inquire as to what the law was pertaining to a certain crime, the lawyer had to take down a dozen books before he could find what he wanted. As you know, a Commission was appointed and the law was codified, giving us the grand criminal law of March 31st, 1860, as contained in our Purdon's Digest. There is an instance of the codification of a series of laws into one Act of Assembly. I take it that a commission should be appointed by the Governor, or the Governor and the Legislature, and that commission should be composed of experienced men, say one or two of them should be attorneys, a young man and an old man with long experience in the law, and others of that commission should be members of the Poor Boards from different parts of the State, men with long experience in the business, and men that know the wants of the people. Others of that commission should be men who have devoted their lives to charity, and who would represent the good side—I refer to the moral and religious side. This Board ought to be composed of those men. The lawyers would prepare the act of Assembly legally and correctly. As to some of the errors in the law, I can only refer to our own local law, and that requires the Justices of the Peace to state in the order of relief the settlement of the pauper; in some of the districts in this State that is not the case. The Justices of the Peace in framing their order of maintenance, don't always comply with the requirements of the law, and our directors have great trouble in discovering the settlement of a pauper; that should be in every order of maintenance. The Justices of the Peace in this county have power to call for papers and persons to determine the settlement of a pauper. If that is brought at once to the directors they know at once where to send the pauper, consequently in our own county we have very little



trouble. Of course we have a little friction now and then, but that exists all over the State. I mean with our neighboring counties and with those districts in other parts of the State. We always know in this county to what district a pauper belongs. Another provision in our local law, which I think is a good one, is that the order of relief, or maintenance, must be sent to the Poor Directors, or presented to some one, and that within ten days, or it is null and void; that prevents the fraudulent proceedings spoken of. That would prevent what is stated here of persons coming in long months afterwards with a big bill for several hundreds or thousands of dollars, and if the overseers don't pay it bring suit. The litigation would be very good fun for the lawyers, but poor fun for the people who pay the money. We have a general law referred to by the gentleman from Allegheny City, the Act of 1836, where the parents and grand-parents, and the children and grand-children of every poor person—and right there come two words "being able," shall maintain those persons. I can refer to a case which arose in our own county, where an old gentleman in this county a few months ago became unable to work. His children were young, strong and stout, and earned good wages in the coke works. The old gentleman presented a petition and it was taken to the Court, and a rule granted on the children and they came into Court, and an order was made by the President Judge and the children were required to maintain the old folks. These parties were able to maintain the old folks. The old man had been a charge for a long time, but he is down here now and I am collecting money every fifteen days for his support. If the law was enforced I don't know any better remedy, but I take it that there are many things that could be improved upon in the general laws. You will remember that the poor laws, that is your local laws, are based upon the laws, if I remember right in my reading, that were enforced in the time of Queen Elizabeth; they came with William Penn but were modified by an Act of Assembly in 1851. You will remember in reading the Act of 1836, there is a little clause in regard to the very question we have been talking about. The Act of 1836 did not apply to a district whether it was a county, borough or city, where a local law already existed, and in that Act of 1836, many local laws were passed erecting counties and parts of counties in different districts. I take it that the Conven-

tion is performing a proper thing in suggesting to those in authority to appoint a commission to modify, revise and abrogate some of the old laws and make new laws, not new principles of laws, but as was said by some gentleman we want all the good things in the old laws enacted into a new law. We could pick the proper ideas out of the old laws because there are many good laws all over the State in regard to the matter. We could select those that are best and embody them in one general Act of Assembly, then I think the poor laws would be as perfect as they could well be made, and as perfect as that country from which we obtained our laws, England.

*Mr. Price* (Allegheny): I don't know that we are arriving at any better conclusion or that any better way has been suggested to get at it than has already been mentioned. I think this Convention will meet twice before any very material changes will be made, or before any decided action will be taken by the committee spoken of.

*Mr. Armstrong* (Bedford): I had purposed making some remarks on the subject under discussion, but it has been so fully and ably discussed that it would be unreasonable to take up the time of the Convention in discussing it further. It may be possible that I will have something to say at a future time, but not now.

*The President*: The Committee on Organization and Place of the next Meeting, will now report:

PLACE OF NEXT MEETING, ALTOONA, BLAIR Co., 3rd Tuesday of October, 1889.

*Officers*: President, George Roney, of Philadelphia; 1st Vice-President, Daniel Herr, Lancaster; 2nd Vice-President, Lydia B. Walton, Chester county; 3rd Thos. Reed, Beaver county; 4th A. H. Etter, Franklin; 5th W. H. Guy, Allegheny; Secretary, W. P. Hunker, Allegheny; Corresponding Secretary, Robt. D. McGonnigle, Pittsburgh; Treasurer, Wm. M. Brown, Erie.

The report was seconded and adopted.

*Mr. Brumbaugh* (Blair): Before reading the few thoughts I have committed to paper, I think the committee that made up this programme took from another class the privilege of presenting

this topic. I believe that our medical gentlemen should have considered this, and my remarks, or what I have to say here may not give to you very much light on the subject that you have assigned to me, but what little it is, I will now read to you :

### MEDICAL OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

This Association has always dealt with live issues, consequently its work has been fraught with good results. The better care and treatment of our indigent insane and indigent children have been the fruits and results of thought and deliberation in the past conventions, but there are other matters and subjects coming within the province of this Association that need revision and reform.

One of these is the better care and treatment of our out-door poor, and especially the medical treatment they receive or to put in other language, the medical care and treatment they do not receive, and we shall treat this under the head of *Medical Out-Door Relief*. This question should have been assigned to a medical member of our Association who could have presented it in a more practical and logical manner, as it comes more within the province of their profession.

The small pittance that is dealt to the out-door pauper through the means of out-door relief is commensurate with the medical treatment that they generally receive. The medical profession like every other profession, do not believe in working for no pay, yet as a general rule they do more gratuitous business than any other class or profession. Yet with all this our out-door poor are often deprived of such medical care and treatment that is due to them. It generally happens that the physician treats all that come to him, rich and poor, within the bounds of his practice, but it is asking too much for him to treat those who do not pay as well as those who do pay, and even if he is willing to render his services gratuitous, he ought not to be expected to provide the medicines. What can be done to give them then the necessary medical relief? How can it be administered satisfactorily, how can it be done judiciously and with the least expense to the poor district? If every physician is permitted to treat the poor within the range of his practice at general rates the expense would be detrimental to the cause, and it would give too much latitude to run exorbitant bills, by unscrupulous physicians. This must be regulated as well as every thing that is done or should be done in all out-door cases. One of the most satisfactory system that has been in vogue for a number of years in several of our poor districts and which seems to work satisfactory, is to divide the poor districts into sub-districts of such a size that physicians, one for each district, to



attend to all the out-door poor in the county at regular stipulated salaries. This system has been adopted for some ten years in Blair county. We find it satisfactory and economic. In the city of Altoona and a few of the larger towns, the medicines are provided by the Directors of the Poor. In the smaller towns and rural districts the physicians find the medicines. There is no inconvenience to the board in securing the services of physicians. Applications are numerous. We believe that where out-door relief is administered ; provision should always be made for their care in full, failing to provide for them proper medical relief is doing injustice.

We are aware that there is a diversity of opinions and methods of administering out-door relief. Every Board having their own system and in many cases leaving it to the physician in which the applicant resides. It is the duty of this Convention to endeavor to have our poor laws made general, so that there is uniformity, a general law no doubt could be framed that would be an improvement on the present laws now in force.

An able writer of the *North American Review*, says: "It is often said that conferences like this being without legislative or judicial power, are a vain show, a waste of words and feeling, with no results worth mentioning." No error could be greater. The educating and illuminating power of such a congress is great. A noticeable impulse to legislation was given by the National Conference of Charities and Corrections, which was held at Washington, in 1886, and John Hopkins University, of Baltimore, felt its influence so far as to establish a lectureship on charity organizations, and kindred topics. The men and women who gather in these conferences, are not mere theorists, nor are they simply officials of public institutions of small culture and narrow intellect.

The object of our Conventions are to interchange ideas, make corrections, and suggest such changes that may assist our legislative bodies to formulate and pass such laws as the demands of the times and age may demand. The amelioration and care of the poor and destitute is a profound study, and has engaged the minds of Christian philanthropists ever since the dawn of Christianity. The inevitable conclusion uttered by the Saviour of the world, when he said, "Ye have the poor always," reminds us that, with all our endeavors to better the condition of the poor and to bring about such measures that will strike at the very root of pauperism and eradicate this unpleasant state of society out of existence, the grim monster, like Hamlet's ghost, will not down at our bidding. But we are glad to learn that during the past two generations, more has been wrought



than ever before to better the condition of the dependent poor. Our work is a noble one. We work in harmony with all who are laboring in the cause of bettering the condition of every class of dependents. Greece and Rome in their palmiest days of philosophy, did not dream of the wonders of the present age. If Plato were to come to life among us, no chemical marvel would so astonish him as would Laura Bridgman. That physician that said of idiots, "I would kill them all off," was no less unscientific than inhuman. Yet this was the best conclusion that that age could produce, and was thought the wisest. But science forbids all waste, even the wasted powers of an idiot. The feeble-minded are educated. What is most needed now, is to educate the public; to show, by facts most scientifically collated, that public relief tends always to perpetuate misery and degradation; to show the value of charity organization as a means of diffusion of intelligence, and of bringing large numbers of prosperous people into efficient service of the poor, and to bring out into prominence the duty of private citizens, of the church, and of the press, with regard to the great problem of the uplifting and regeneration of humanity, is the fulfillment of our duty. Let us endeavor to do this well, and when our work is ended,

" We can make our lives sublime,  
And departing, leave behind us  
Footprints in the sands of time ;  
Footprints that perhaps another  
Sailing o'er life's solemn main,  
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother  
Seeing, shall take heart again."

*Mr. Ross (Montgomery):* Mr. Chairman, it seems to me that we have all the law on this subject now that we require, I mean the subject about out-door medical relief. It is a subject that I suppose every Poor Board in the State has had difficulty with; I think we, of Montgomery county, have mastered the situation. In our county, sir, we have adopted rules which are governed by the general law. Our Board years ago adopted rules, and had those rules approved by the President Judge of our county. And in this Convention I think much can be done by letting one Board know how another Board acts. I would suggest to the Poor Directors here, that they examine our plan, because in our county it is working most satisfactorily. I have several copies of our rules here to which you are welcome. In out-door medical matters we have this rule:

Rule 9. No bill for medicines and out-door medical relief shall be allowed, except in the following cases, to-wit:—

1st. Where the same shall have been ordered by one or more of the directors, and then only when an affidavit shall first be filed stating that the party is too poor to pay for the same.

In no event shall more than one visit per day be paid for at the rate of fifty cents per visit, this to include the medicines furnished.

2nd. Where a poor person shall fall suddenly sick or be injured by an accident and no time can be spared to get an order of relief from a director or other persons duly authorized by law to give the same, then so much of the service and medicine as shall be furnished for the emergency shall be paid for at the rate of fifty cents for each necessary visit. If a limb be broken which requires setting, the physician or surgeon shall be paid three dollars. The same sum shall be paid in all confinement cases, *Provided however* that before any emergency case shall be paid for, an affidavit shall be filed stating that the person attended is too poor to pay the same.

3rd. Physicians' bills shall never be paid unless full particulars of the patient's disease or injury are given, together with an itemized account of the visits, and the nature and character of the remedies prescribed, all under the sanction of the oath or affirmation of the claimant.

Now that rule works first rate in all of our county districts. In our incorporated districts, boroughs, &c., we have been trying the plan of inviting bids from the different physicians for attending a certain district for a certain time, say for one year. They have to attend to all that come to them with an order from the Directors of the Poor, and to furnish all medicines; and in one district we have particularly taken account of, our county has saved about five hundred dollars in the year, and we think it is a great success. I have brought several copies of our rules with me, and I think most of you would get a pretty good idea from them.

*Mr. Armstrong* (Bedford): In Bedford county we have grappled with the question, and we have a very good case on hand now which is going to result, I am strongly of the opinion, in litigation, and I thought when the proper time arrived I would make a statement of it, as there might be a parallel case in some other county, and it would cast some light on the question. In one of

the townships in our county, a boy of about thirteen or fourteen years of age was employed by one of our wealthy farmers as a farm hand, under a contract of seven months, for four dollars a month. The boy went there to work, and he was put to hauling brick, or bringing it down from the mountain, and in coming down a steep precipice with a heavy load of brick, he fell over, and the wagon run over a lower portion of his leg and mashed it terribly, what the physician pronounced a compound fracture, a compression of the bone of the leg. The child, in the opinion of the attending physician, and in the opinion of our resident physician, was pronounced utterly unfitted to move, that it was dangerous to his life, and would terminate in the impairment of his limb. At the next meeting of the Board, the man who employed the child stated the case to the Board, and asked them to take charge of the case. This boy is the only son of a widowed mother. I advised our Board to go upon the ground and ascertain all the facts of the case, but not to commit themselves in any shape, manner or form. They did so, and they came back, and the matter was allowed to rest. The attending physician at the next meeting came and filed a bill for some \$239, and on the top of that we have a bill for some sixty dollars for support, and twenty dollars for nursing, and dear knows where the bills will terminate. The child is still there, I believe, and it was reported a couple of weeks ago to be in an unfit condition to move. What I desire to get at, or at least ascertain the sense of this Convention, if it is a proper subject, to know how far the Board of Directors can be legally responsible in a case of that kind, or how far the employer would be responsible. At our last meeting of the Board, the physician who attended him in the first place came there to ascertain what was done in connection with his bill. I told him as far as I was concerned, as the legal adviser of that Board, it would refuse payment, unless they were compelled to pay it by proper course of law. Under the last computation, if we are compelled to pay this, it means one thousand dollars to us. I have been more baffled and confused in relation to medical attendance than anything in the wide world that I ever tackled. There seems to be no law to guide us, and the physicians in our county, even if they use a scalpel, double the bill.

*Mr. Brumbaugh (Blair):* The suggestion made by the gentleman from Montgomery county, in regard to the rules laid down, are very wise ones. I think a stipulated salary that would pay our out-door physicians, requiring them to do all that comes within their provinces at a certain salary, would be a good idea. Those in Altoona get a hundred dollars, and in Tyrone, fifty dollars, &c.

*Mr. Flickinger (Perry):* I am not positive whether my friend from Montgomery got the idea from us in Perry county, or where, in regard to out-door medical attendance. We have adopted, as soon as possible, the same rules in Perry county, and we receive proposals, and the lowest bidder gets the contract for attending to our out-door poor in a certain district. As our county is filled up with small towns and villages, we can give a certain portion of the county to the physicians living in those villages, and in that way we can have all our out-door patients attended to by physicians, and since we have adopted that rule, we have saved hundreds of dollars. Physicians are acquainted with the fact that if they attend any persons where an accident has occurred, and where persons are too poor to pay for medical attendance, if they go to see them they must notify the nearest Director of the Board after the first visit, or they can receive no pay. This is the way we have in Perry county, and we are saving money.

*Mr. Worst (Lancaster):* It seems to me that that is useless for the Directors of the Board to pay for outside medical attendance. We, in our county, Lancaster county, have more inmates than any other county, with the exception of one or two, and we don't pay nearly as much for out-door medical attendance. I don't see why they do it. If we would open the door to pay things of that kind, we could pay out six or ten thousand dollars a year, but we don't open the door in that way. The only way we pay medical attendance outside of the institution is, if an inmate gets leave of absence to go to see his friends, and becomes sick, then we pay medical attendance in such a case. I don't see why Montgomery county should have to pass a law to that effect; I can't see where that comes in. We have as many poor in Lancaster county as any other county, but the physicians never trouble us. I think it has been the Directors' fault in opening the door and paying the first bill; of course, then they would have to pay the second.



*Mr. Colborn* (Somerset): The gentleman who has just taken his seat is wrong on the law in the case. If anybody should meet with an accident and was too poor to provide a physician the person going to attend him would be responsible for it in every way, and Lancaster county is fortunate in having the physicians it has. I don't see why physicians should be paid for treating the poor any more than that the lawyers should be paid for trying the cases of the poor. One is no more of a necessity than the other. The suggestion that was made of having physicians appointed in different parts of the county to look after the sick of the county—I don't believe in letting it out to the lowest bidder, because when you pay a mean amount you get a service accordingly. The physicians who do the practice amongst the poor say that the rich pay for it, and in some communities they haven't any rich, and then they fall on the county. This is a question that most of the Poor Boards of the State are greatly interested in.

*Mr. Worst* (Lancaster): We have a hospital, and during this last year we have taken care of thirty-seven accidents that have taken place on the Pennsylvania Railroad. We have our doctor right there and these accidents are removed to our hospital, and we take care of them there, but we don't pay any outside medical attendance. I don't know whether the doctors of Lancaster county are more humane than in any other county but they don't come to us with any bill; they make the rich pay for the poor.

*Mr. Crout* (Germantown): You have your physicians along the road; do any other doctors go there and treat these people, or do you pay any others?

*Mr. Worst* (Lancaster): We have four consulting physicians; three in the City of Lancaster and one about a mile-and-a-half west. They come to our institution and consult with the resident physician.

*Mr. Cope* (Westmoreland): They don't always do that in Westmoreland county. We appoint physicians for various districts throughout the county and pay them so much salary.

*Mr. Milligan* (Philadelphia): I think, sir, if we have any kind of out-door relief for the poor it should be out-door medical relief. I don't see why the subject is so difficult and so embarrassing to the gentlemen who have spoken about the matter, except

that it is an open question with them. In Philadelphia there are two physicians appointed for each district in the city. They are appointed at a small salary per annum, not any particular sum for the number of cases; but they receive a salary for their entire work for the year. There are also a number of apothecaries appointed throughout the city to fill the prescriptions that the physicians give, gratis. The poor who choose to go there get their attendance and medicine gratis. I think that a worthy branch of relief for the poor, and think if there is any out-door relief whatever for them, that should be a part of it.

*Mr. Rolshouse*, (Allegheny), presented the following as the report of the Auditing Committee :

UNIONTOWN, OCT. 16, 1888.

The undersigned committee appointed to examine and audit the accounts of the Treasurer, beg leave to report that we have performed our duties and find them correct, showing an indebtedness of \$102.88. We would recommend that an assessment be levied upon each poor district of \$15.00 to meet the present indebtedness and the expenses of the year and this assessment be paid forthwith.

Respectfully submitted,

J. L. ROLSHOUSE,

P. G. KELL,

L. C. COLBORN.

### ACCOUNT OF STATE ASSOCIATION, DIRECTORS OF THE POOR, PENNSYLVANIA.

1888.

CASH COLLECTED.

Chester County.....	\$15 00
“ “ Children's Aid Society.....	5 00
Germantown, Philadelphia Poor District.....	15 00
Rev. Wm. L. Bull, private subscription.....	5 00
Dauphin County.....	15 00
Lancaster County.....	15 00
Huntingdon County.....	15 00
Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor District, Philadelphia.....	15 00
Allegheny City Home.....	15 00
Allegheny Children's Aid Society.....	5 00
Penn'a Society Protecting Children from Cruelty.....	10 00
Perry County.....	15 00
Washington County—Children's Home, \$5 ; County, \$10.....	15 00

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Allegheny County Home.....	\$15 00
Crawford County.....	15 00
Somerset County.....	15 00
Cumberland County.....	15 00
Montgomery County.....	15 00
Lebanon County.....	15 00
Blair County.....	15 00
Westmoreland County.....	15 00
Lackawanna County, Blakely Poor District.....	10 00
Northampton County.....	15 00
Franklin County.....	15 00
Mercer County.....	15 00
Delaware County.....	15 00
Carbon County, Middle Coal Field Poor District.....	15 00
Northumberland County, Sunbury Poor District.....	2 50
“ “ Upper Augusta Poor District.....	2 50
Bedford County.....	15 00
Luzerne County.....	15 00
Adams County.....	15 00
McKean County.....	15 00
*Bureau of Charities and Corrections, Blockley Almshouse..	15 00
Children's Aid Society, of B. of I., Gertrude G. Biddle, President, Office, No. 127 South 12th Street, Philadel- phia, Pa.....	15 00
Seranton Poor District, (by Directors,) Lackawanna County.	15 00
Miss Woolsey, Librarian State Charities Aid Association, 21 University Place, New York.....	2 00
Pittsburgh Farm Home.....	15 00
Schuylkill County Almshouse.....	15 00
York County.....	15 00
Berks County.....	15 00
Cambria County.....	15 00
Lackawanna County, (Pittston Township Poor District).....	5 00
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Total Cash Collected.....	\$557 00

## CASH EXPENDITURES.

To Myers, Shinkle & Co., (to balance account) for the year 1887 .....	\$ 37 00
“ Briggs & Fish, Stenographers.....	75 00
“ Briggs, Railroad and Hotel Bill.....	19.65
“ Robert D. McGonnigle, services as Secretary, compiling Accounts, and Report of State Convention.....	75 45

To Myers, Shinkle & Co., (part pay publishing last year's report).....	\$285 00
“ Myers, Shinkle & Co., (balance on account, publishing report).....	147 50
“ Robert D. McGonnigle, postage, expressage, telegrams, Gettysburg Convention.....	12 43
“ Janitor, for opening Court House, caring for same.....	4 00
“ William Brown, Treasurer, Exchanging Money Orders, postage, stationery, &c.....	3 85
Total Expenses.....	\$659 88
Total Collections.....	557 00
	101 88
Interest.....	2 50
	104 38
Cash on hand at last Settlement,.....	1 50
Total Indebtedness.....	\$102 88

WM. M. BROWN,  
Treasurer Association.

On motion, the report was received and adopted.

*Mr. Hope* (Chester): I beg leave to submit the following :

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of this Convention* :—The question we are about to consider: “Religion in our county homes, or almshouses, prisons and asylums,” is one of more than passing interest, and should claim the prayerful attention of all who feel an interest in the methods used in the care and improvement of the inmates who fill those institutions. In no age of the world has the poor and unfortunate received so large a share of public and private attention, and in no age has there been more large-heartedness, and whole-souled generosity, than the present. Almost two thousand years ago Christ said “The poor ye have always with you,” and dating back to the fall when sin commenced its blighting influence, and played so prominent part in the construction of society, we have had a class dependent upon the benevolence of willing hearts. Benevolence may be regarded not only giving for charitable purposes, but an investment. Did not our Saviour mean this when he said: “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me.” When we give for Christ’s sake we make a permanent investment. “He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord.” We, as Directors of the Poor, Stewards, and



Officers of Charitable Institutions, have a responsibility placed upon us by the votes of the people, in addition to our individual responsibility, as we are using the power and means placed at our disposal in elevating and improving the condition of the poor and unfortunate, not only in providing for them temporal, but spiritual food, so far as we are performing this duty, so far we are laying up treasures which will last throughout the countless ages of eternity. There are two lines of investments: that which goes into mere earthly treasures, and that which goes into the treasury of the Lord. A Jewish legend tells of two men who made an investment. It runs thus:

“ Ben Adam had a golden coin one day,  
Which he put out at interest with a Jew,  
Year after year awaiting him it lay,  
Until the double coin two pieces grew,  
And these two, four, so on till people said,  
How rich Ben Adam is, and bowed the servile head.”

“ Ben Selem had a golden coin that day,  
Which to a stranger asking alms he gave,  
Who went rejoicing on his unknown way,  
But Selem died too poor to own a grave;  
But when his soul reached heaven, Angels with pride  
Showed him the wealth to which his coin had multiplied.”

This truth applies to all who are blessed with the opportunities. The question must be decided on the principle of ability, the greater the power to serve, the greater the proportion of service. We look with pride on our magnificent asylums, almshouses and prisons spreading their walls far and wide, and towering high above the lofty trees that surround them, heated and lighted in the most improved style, clean and comfortable beds, good and substantial food, and at times some of the luxuries. The doctor is there at a good salary, ever ready to relieve aches or pains. These magnificent structures are filled with the unfortunate poor of our counties; the asylum with the insane, the prisons with the criminals. While we approve of all this, yea more, if possible, to help smooth their few remaining days or years, but I fear we too often pass over or neglect the most noble part of man, their immortal souls, which must live forever.

Many of the inmates of our county homes, or almshouses have seen better days and are there from no fault of their own, many of these are religiously inclined, have been accustomed to public worship and would be at loss without it. Many others are there from the influence of bad association, sin and dissipation, they have tried the pleasures of the world in all its phases, their life has been a failure, they are now completely broken down, and expect to end their days in the

poor house. If there is a time in God's providence when they can be reached by Christian endeavor it is now.

We as directors and Christian men, should be careful the kind of influence we throw around them when we appoint the doctor, steward, or nurse; we should know that they are Christian men, capable of leading those unfortunates to a higher and better life, we should know that the Bible is placed in the hands of all who can read, and that the Gospel is preached by those capable of doing that work; that there is personal Christian effort, particularly with the sick; that each person who dies in the almshouse should have a Christian burial, anything short of this is not Christian and cannot be treated with cold indifference. But some will say that Christian work in these institutions should be done by the church and Christian people, free of cost; that the gospel should be free. This argument might have some weight where it in meeting houses, churches, or private homes, but these are public institutions and not supposed to be governed by the particular views of any sect, creed, or religious belief. We cannot conscientiously shift the responsibility on the church or Christian people who have their own special work to do. Can we or should we expect them to visit these institutions, week after week, at a loss of time and expense and receive nothing even for their expenses?

The gospel *is* as free as the water we drink, but we must pay for the vessel as the medium through which we obtain the water. So it is with the gospel, it is free, but for that reason shall we continue to borrow or insist upon others finding the vessel through which this free gospel is carried to the poor under our care?

I believe the experience of all present who have the care of inmates of any of our public institutions will bear me out, when I say the more earnest and conscientious the religious feeling in their institution the easier they are governed and controlled. If we have no higher motive it is economy to encourage religion in all our public institutions. A friend of mine asked one of the directors of one of the largest asylums in this State: "Do you have religious service with your inmates?" "Yes, we think it amuses and keeps them quiet." "How much do you pay for such service?" "Five dollars per visit." "How do you account for this expenditure in making your annual report?" "We term it expenses for amusements." Can it be possible, in such institutions as we have in this State, controlled by intelligent Christian gentlemen there should be a necessity for covering up religion under the cloak of amusements, while the dram shop can go on under sanction of law, grinding out material to fill our asylums, jails, and poor houses without even a thin veil to hide its awful deformity!

If it is wrong for the poor and unfortunate to have religion, let us abandon it ; if right, let us stand by it like men and not be afraid to call it by its right name. We have heard it objected that we have no law or precedent for paying expenses for coming to our almshouses, jails and asylums for religious instruction. Go to our general and State government, they employ a chaplain and thus recognize the duty and necessity for religious service ; go to the army and navy, each regiment have their chaplain paid by the government, while the poor must go without or receive it through the self-sacrificing generosity of Christian people.

In order to have a better understanding of the religious condition of our almshouses and asylums, I have written to each superintendent or steward asking the following questions : " Have you preaching to your inmates ? How often ? Do you employ a chaplain ? If so, what salary do you pay ? Do you have religious service at burial of inmates ? What effect does preaching or religious instruction have upon your inmates ?

I have received answers from forty-seven of these, thirty-four have religious services of some kind ; eleven, have no religious service ; nine, have religious service every Sunday ; fourteen, every second Sunday ; two, every third Sunday ; one, every eight weeks ; two, once per month ; two, once per year ; two, twice per year ; two have only Catholic service once a year ; two of our stewards call their household together in their chapel once a day for family worship conducted by the steward ; thirteen, employ a chaplain and twenty-three do not ; of these, two pay two dollars per sermon ; two, pay five dollars per sermon ; two pay one dollar per trip ; two, pay one dollar per sermon ; two, pay one hundred and fifty dollars per year ; one, pays two hundred dollars per year ; one, pays three hundred dollars per year ; three, pays fifty dollars per year ; one, four hundred and twenty dollars per year ; one, has two Chaplains at seventy-five dollars each per year ; one, have two chaplains at fifty dollars each per year ; two, pay one dollar for service at funerals ; one, pays one dollar visiting sick, &c. ; thirty-one have religious service at burial of inmates ; of these, two are for catholics only ; nine, have no religious service, no Christian burial ; thirty-three report the effect of religious service on their inmates good ; eight, report no effect, not having had religious service.

It is reasonable to suppose that a majority of those who did not respond care very little whether their inmates have the gospel or not. While many of these reports are very encouraging, others show a lack of interest in religion ; but of sixty-three who were asked to report only forty-seven had interest enough to respond.



We felt encouraged that even two of our stewards or superintendents have had religious courage enough to call their household together once a day for family worship.

While we are justly proud of our benevolence, charitable and religious institutions, we must feel humbled at the want of religious interest manifested by those who have the management of some of our county homes or almshouses. It makes but little difference whether you are religiously inclined or not, the responsibility is upon you, God will hold each of us to account for the manner we treat the opportunities we possess for elevating and fitting these poor unfortunate dependents for a happier and better life.

*Rev. Wolf:* I am very sorry to see, Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen of the Convention, that I happen to be the only chaplain of any County Home here to day. I would have been glad to have made the acquaintance of any other chaplain. I am acquainted with the one of the Allegheny County Home, but I do not see any others here. I notice that the Boards have been careful to bring their lawyers along, but they neglected to provide for the bringing along of their chaplains. One of the first things the Board seems to feel the necessity of is a doctor, and it is not long before they need a lawyer, and about the last thing they think necessary to have is a chaplain. (Laughter and applause). I do not take any credit to myself that I happen to be the chaplain of the County Home in Washington, because the good gentlemen of that Home have instituted such a thing. I am sure it gives me a great deal of pleasure to be the chaplain of that Home, and a great deal of pleasure to be here and listen to the proceedings of the Convention to-day. I think one of the marks that we are advancing, not only into the higher civilization, but a high Christian civilization, and that mark is that we have religious service in our County Home. It is not enough, as a sister said, that we care for the bodies of them, but it is also incumbent upon us to care for the souls of those in our County Home. In some places, as I noticed by the report, religious service is only held twice a year, and the report says that the result is good. Now, if that's the case, where the religious service is held so seldom, what will be the result if they have preaching every Sabbath during the year.



*Mr. Rolshouse* (Allegheny): In justice to a home situated in the western frontier of the State—I am not sure whether we are counted on the good or bad side—but merely to put ourselves on the right side, you will allow me to say that we have service every Sabbath day, and once a month we have German service, and about twice a month on an average the year round, the priest comes and has mass. Our inmates never sit down to a meal the year round unless some one of the old men rise after they are all seated to ask a blessing. My experience, as Superintendent of the Allegheny County Home, is very much in sympathy with work of this kind. Our minister receives three hundred dollars a year.

*Mr. Curr*: I move we adjourn to meet in the Court House at half-past seven this evening.

Motion is seconded and adopted.

### EVENING SESSION.

*Mr. McGonnigle*: Before adjourning this afternoon I intended to offer the following resolution:

*Resolved*, That this Convention recommend to the directors and stewards of all almshouses or homes in the State, that their inmates be called together as often as practicable for public worship and religious instruction.

That there should be a judicious effort made for visiting the sick and personal religious instructions to those needing it.

That all inmates dying in the home or almshouses and buried from the house should have Christian burial.

*Mr. Ross* (Montgomery): I think a part of that is improper, as what Christian burial can be at the almshouse under the existing laws. I imagine that those having relatives throughout the county can take them away for interment, but how can they bury them on the almshouse property and give them a Christian burial?

*Mr. Culp* (Venango): This present summer we have taken away three that died in our almshouse; we took one man away ten miles, it was his request to be buried at that place, and we gave him a very nice burial, just as nice as any person in the country would have. And just a few weeks ago an old gentleman ninety-eight years old, who had been married twice, we took him

four miles and buried him in the cemetery between his two wives, and we had a minister come four miles to preach his funeral sermon. I don't know why we haven't that privilege to do if we wish to do it.

*Mr. Hunker (Allegheny):* I will state that under the Act of Assembly it is required that parties buried at the public expense, that the bodies shall be turned over to the society appointed to receive them. We have frequently at almshouses parties who have relatives unable to give them a city funeral, or remove them to city cemeteries. We furnish the grave and they the coffin; I don't think that's a violation of the Act.

*Mr. Rolshouse (Allegheny):* I will state that I have at the present time in my drawer at home, half a dozen deposits amply sufficient to bury parties in our house at the present time. I think that I have six or seven in the drawer of sums sufficient to meet the necessary expenses for funerals.

The resolution was adopted.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Mr. Carr wants to know how many are going to the almshouse in the morning, and how many to the Orphans' School.

*The President:* Well, first there is on the programme a paper by Chas. S. Snyder, and he is not here, and Mr. McGonnigle will explain why.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* I have a letter from him. He is ill and will not able to attend this meeting. (Reads letter.)

*The President:* The next is an address by a representative of the Children's Aid Society.

*Mrs. Wilson:* I will say that my paper refers to the general work. Any particulars can be given from our reports which you will find on the table here.

"It is what is done and suffered in the home, that has the profoundest interest for us. Is it not plain that not in senate, or courts, or chambers of commerce, but in the dwelling house must the true character and hope of the time be consulted."

So wrote one of the world's great thinkers, and it is, as you know, on this profound truth the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania has founded and is now building its work.

This work, began scarcely more than six years ago, has passed beyond the experimental stage. The faith of its founders, that in the hearts and homes of the people of this Commonwealth, any dependent child not requiring treatment by specialists could be sheltered, and become a partaker in the social, industrial and religious life of the community, has been justified. Far beyond their expectations has this faith been justified, for we have as yet scarcely touched the possibilities for expansion of which this intensely humane work is capable.

To place each child in a family home where he may best develop what is good in its nature, and keep the worst qualities dormant or with the least activity possible with the child's free development, this is the task which we have set ourselves.

To save children from becoming paupers and criminals, not by setting them apart from us as a special class, but to treat them precisely as we would our own children similarly situated, and by perfectly natural methods, have them absorbed in the healthful tide of industrial human life.

Children after all differ but slightly from one another, difference being mostly a matter of training, and how clearly George MacDonald sees this, is shown in a dream, or vision related by him. The dreamer finds at his door on a bitter, cold, stormy night a little half-frozen child who looked quietly and beseechingly into his face; its hair was filled with drifted snow and its little hands were blue with cold. The heart of the dreamer swelled to bursting with the spring-tide of love and pity that rose up within it. He lifted the child to his bosom and carried him into the house and made haste to set him by the fire and get hot water and put him in a warm bath. He never doubted that this was a stray orphan who had wandered to him for protection and felt that he could never part with him again. The child said never a word, but when the dreamer had undressed and bathed the little orphan and having dried him on his knees, and having set him down to reach something warm to wrap him in, the child suddenly looked up in his face and said with a heavenly smile, "I am the child Jesus." "The child Jesus," said the dreamer astonished, "Thou art like any other child." "No, do not say so," returned the boy, "but say, any other child is like me." And so it is, within each little one, whether born of rich or poor parents, lie infinite possibilities for good, and only by dealing with each one individually, are we enabled to develop the future man or woman intelligently. This then you can see is no slight task that we have set ourselves, and the opportunities for mistakes lie waiting for us on every hand, nor do we deny that

mistakes are made, for it would require superhuman wisdom not to sometimes get "the round pegs in the square holes."

The price we pay for thoroughly successful practicable work in this and in other fields is "eternal vigilance," which seems to be the price paid for all things worth having in this world.

But in spite of our mistakes, or rather I should say, because of them, as we often learn more durable lessons by our failures than by our successes, I feel sure I may safely say, the average quality of our work grows higher each year. Children are more wisely and fittingly placed and looked after, and the standard of family homes has been raised. We are learning to be better instruments for carrying out principles, which, after all, are not affected by our imperfections. Whatever are our shortcomings, the great central truth remains unshaken, as it must always remain; for we, Children's Aid workers, have not discovered any new truth, any new plan; we have simply wheeled into line with a great fundamental law, and like soldiers drilling, we have not yet learned to do our work with perfect precision and accuracy. We can have, however, no reason for discouragement, neither with our home work nor the reports that come to us from distant places. We find that in California, they have been pegging away at the same problem, and have arrived at precisely the same solution with ourselves.

The Children's Aid Society of San Francisco, in its last report, says: "Home life, home training, more than anything else, must form the character of any child to independence, energy and goodness." Their superintendent, Edmond T. Dorley, whose paper, "Child and State," has been an inspiration to many of us, deprecates in strong terms any tendency to make of their clearing house in San Francisco, an abiding place or asylum. "We should not for a moment countenance such an idea," he says, and further adds, "every effort should be made to attain the very opposite to properly get rid of, and to take care of in family homes, the children that fall under our care. Our model and ideal is, and should be, the true, natural home. There our work is to be done. This should be the guide and inspiration of all our activities."

Progressive institutions too, are everywhere approaching as nearly as possible the family plan, with their small cottages, and their house fathers and their house mothers. On all sides we note these signs of changing methods. It were vain for us to think that we can for a single moment stop the progress of any truth, but we can lose the blessedness that comes by being co-workers with "the power that works for righteousness."



This brings me to a phase of the work with which all of us who have been long engaged in it, have been deeply impressed, and that is, its practical religious character, a factor we cannot afford to lose sight of.

The moment we approach the consideration of the welfare of a child, in this purely natural human way, selfish and worldly influences must cease, and those artificial barriers which we have sedulously constructed through the ages, and with which we keep one another at arm's length, crumble away, and we become fathers and mothers consulting what shall be done with our children. They become ours not by ties of blood, but by that great spiritual bond which makes us all sons and daughters of the one eternal father.

I mean to preach no sermon, but when with your help, and the help of other good men and women, this whole State of Pennsylvania becomes a great system and net-work of people, pledged to a high unselfish purpose, when each dependent child becomes a center of friendly love and interest, and these centers distributed in a thousand family homes, where not only every county, but every township has its effective working committee of men and women, I cannot help but think that this unity of interest, this ennobling diffusion and sharing of responsibility, must bring us all closer to one another, and a little nearer the great central truth of "human brotherhood."

*Mr. Hunker*: I move that paper be referred to the Secretary and be printed.

Motion seconded and adopted.

*Mr. Milligan* (Philadelphia): I think, sir, there are some of the ladies of the different branches here that have something to contribute on the subject.

*Miss Conard* (Chester): I would like to submit the following report of the Chester County Society:

We have nothing new to present in our methods of work. Our local committees now number thirteen; five new ones organized within the year; with this added strength, is noted increased interest and earnest desire to do the work *well*. We have one hundred children in our care, and their cost to the county, we are convinced, falls much below what was incurred when kept in the home. We have thirty-seven indentured, and more would obtain permanent homes in this manner if it were not for certain difficulties which we cannot overcome.

There are twenty-nine in temporary homes, and twenty-five in homes on trial; two in House of Refuge, three have died, and one in Girard College, and others returned to their parents. We believe in our work, and we believe in our *plan* of work, so far as it goes, but we want to *really* work with a certain end in view—the *most* and *best* that can be done for the child, and to follow this out during the lawful time they are to remain with us, without interference.

We object to the *very slender hold* we have upon the *child*. This interference by irresponsible parents, continues a difficulty, there being no law to prevent it. Now, what can we do for such children? How can we *lawfully* secure for them, what seems to us better homes than these parents can give them? These are questions that puzzle our Society amazingly. The law gives us no hold upon the child but what may be easily loosened, and at any time. We look upon these as vital questions, upon which there should be appropriate legislation, and we respectfully ask you to give them your *careful* and *serious* consideration. We rejoice to be able to note one commendable feature of your plan, that is, the very evident reduction of the number thus dependent since our organization; and in all our work we have had the kindly assistance of our Board of Directors and the Steward of the Home, to whom our sincere thanks are bestowed.

On behalf of the Society,

LYDIA B. WALTON, *Secretary*.

SARAH ANN CONARD, *Delegate*.

*Mr. Price*, (Allegheny), presented the following report for the Children's Aid Society of Allegheny County :

REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY,  
OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

OCTOBER 16TH, 1888.

It is now three years and more since the organization and work of the Children's Aid Society was inaugurated in Allegheny county, a society whose plan and polity were entirely different from any other charitable work then in existence in this county, and because of its newness of ideas, many doubted its successful realization; but we think our subjoined report will remove every doubt.

We find our field of usefulness continually increasing, and while the Board of Directors of Allegheny county and city have co-operated and worked with us from the first, we are gradually finding our way, or rather, other charitable organizations are finding their way to us, and asking our assistance in finding homes for some of their

charges, while the officers of the Humane Society have sought our aid from time to time in assisting them to find homes for the poor little outcast of humanity brought to their notice. Our system of placing the child immediately in a home for temporary shelter, where there are but few others, until we secure a permanent home, which we make every effort to do, placing them in homes where we are assured they will come under true Christian and good home training, has many warm friends and admirers; some of our most substantial friends assuring us, that next to the hospitals, "The Children's Aid Society fills the greatest public want."

Our system is different from all other organizations which undertake child care, in that it places its little ones in private homes, surrounded by kindness and love, and the child grows up having an individuality, impossible to attain when brought up in an institution. We think this house training will make of them better citizens, because of its removing the stigma from the child, of having no home but the almshouse or public charitable institution. We are organized to a great extent throughout the State, and thus we can exchange our charges, making of our work a State work.

Our citizens have been very liberal in contributions to our work, as will be found by reference to our Treasurer's report. Many of our most prominent physicians of the city and surrounding towns have placed their valuable services at our disposal, and have kindly helped us through the summer, which was so trying to the little ones. Our merchants and friends of the Society have been kind in donating us quantities of dry goods, and the Clothing Committee have seen that these goods have been made into good and substantial clothing.

The Directors of the Poor have co-operated with us, as the laws of the State recommend, with uniform kindness.

We respectfully submit the following report to your honorable body:

Number of children placed in Society's care during year ending October 1st, 1888.....	50
Received from County Poor Board.....	22
Received from Allegheny City Poor Board.....	5
Received from other Counties.....	5
Returned to friends.....	18
Placed in Institutions....	3
Died.....	3
Women with children placed in situations.....	3
Calls made in interest of Society.....	572
Calls received at office.....	1208
Children visited personally.....	170
Letters received in interest of work.....	712
Letters sent in interest of work.....	1031

## Clothing distributed to children in care of this Society :

New garments.....	125
Old garments.....	170
New Shoes distributed.....	pairs, 24

FANNIE J. DARRAGH,  
*Secretary.*

TREASURER'S REPORT OF MONEY RECEIVED AND EXPENDED BY CHILDREN'S  
AID SOCIETY, OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY, PA., FOR YEAR  
ENDING OCTOBER 1ST, 1888.

## DR.

By boarding children from Allegheny County Home.....	\$ 399 77
" " " " Allegheny City Home.....	35 94
" " " " Kittanning Society.....	86 73
" " " " W. P. Orphans' Home.....	26 00
" Individuals.....	416 89
To Cash contributions.....	\$803 84
" Membership Fees.....	81 00
" Fines for Members.....	7 30
" Sundry small amounts.....	34 50
	<hr/> 926 64
Total.....	\$1,891 97

## CR.

By Boarding Children.....	\$1,234 80
" Office Rent.....	100 00
" Check to Miss McCandless.....	200 00
" Office Expenses.....	194 95
" Sundry small bills.....	144 52
Total.....	<hr/> \$1,873 57

MRS. J. T. McCANCE,  
*Treasurer.*

*Mr. Ross* (Montgomery): I move it be received and printed.  
Motion seconded and adopted.

*Mr. Hunker* (Allegheny): In regard to the paper which is submitted, it says that the Allegheny City Home has paid the Children's Aid Society during the past year but thirty-five dollars. That looks like a small sum, but the condition of our home justifies it; it is all the children we had in the Allegheny City Almshouse. When we have a child there that attains the age that it can be removed under the Act of Assembly, we notify the Children's Aid Society and they remove it, and we provide a place



until a home is provided for it. At the present time we haven't one single child in the almshouse of the age of two years. I think everything shows that their work is a noble work in relieving the almshouse of the pauper children that have been accumulating there.

*Mr. Sypher* (Philadelphia): For the information of the directors who are here, and who may not have in mind the strength of what the law of 1883 is, and especially for the benefit of the ladies of Uniontown, I will read the Act of 1883, page 111. I presume at this late date it is not necessary to offer any argument in favor of the care of children in families over that of institutions. The whole problem resolves itself into the fact that the family is considered the "foundation of the Commonwealth." There is no place where education, where the care of children can be so thoroughly accomplished as in the bosom of the family. And as these families constitute the Commonwealth, so the whole hope and dependence of the Commonwealth is upon the family.

*Mr. Carr* (Fayette): Although Mr. Snyder of Philadelphia, will not appear here this evening, I do not think his paper should go over. I am in favor of taking it up for discussion, even in the absence of Mr. Snyder. There are other matters beside that which have already been discussed by the Children's Aid Society, and it is requested that this Society discuss at length the question of taking care of indigent children. I move you, Mr. President, that after the discussion is closed here upon the report of the Children's Aid Society, that the care and keeping of indigent children shall be discussed, aside from the work of the Aid Society.

Motion seconded and adopted.

*Mr. Carr*: I desire, when the report of the Children's Aid Society closes, we take up for discussion the paper that was to be read by Mr. Snyder of Philadelphia.

Motion seconded and adopted.

*Rev. Wolf*: I suppose that the discussion upon this question has nearly closed, and yet, perhaps, something ought to be said by way of exhortation, as the Methodist preacher would say, to impress on our minds and clinch in our hearts the remarks that have

been made here this evening. I think we ought to carry home the fruits of this discussion. It strikes me if some of the suggestions offered here were carried out, the great question would be solved. In placing these children in Christian homes, we would all be led to rejoice.

*Mr. Sloan:* We feel an interest in Washington county in regard to it. We are somewhat different from the representatives that come from the cities. We have a law, and we adopt it. We have now in operation in Washington county, an establishment—what we call in conformity with the law—an “Industrial Educational School.” We believe, if we understand the operation of Aid Societies, that we can co-operate with them in doing a work that would be of great benefit. One question I would like to ask of the Ladies’ Aid Society, is your mode in placing the child in the homes? Do you give any security in the home that you place them that they will not be meddled with by the parents, or any one connected with them, taking them from that home?

*Mrs. Wilson:* We don’t give the address to the parents or friends, unless they are willing the child should stay. As a general thing the address is kept in the office.

*Rev. Wolf:* I offer the following resolution:

RESOLVED, That we recommend our Poor Boards, in all our counties, to invite the ladies to organize Children’s Aid Societies, for the purpose of co-operating with Poor Boards in securing homes for children placed in County Homes.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

*The President:* We would like to hear from the Fayette County Children’s Aid Society, if they have any report.

*Mrs. Ewing:* I beg leave to submit the following report:

## REPORT OF CHILDREN’S AID SOCIETY,

FAYETTE COUNTY BRANCH,

UNIONTOWN, PA., October 17, 1888.

The Fayette county branch of the Children’s Aid Society has been in operation since February 1st, 1887. In that time we have had in our care thirty-six (36) children, twenty-four of whom we took directly from the County Home.

Of these, nineteen have been placed in homes, four were returned to their parents as unmanageable, four were taken away by their parents, two were sent to the Soldiers' Orphan School, at Jumonville, one was sent to Morganza, one was sent to the School for Feeble-minded Children, at Elwyn, Pa., one was taken west by an uncle, one was placed out by Mr. Carr, and three are still at the County Home on account of our inability to find boarding for them; of these three, one is almost blind, one has a badly diseased ear, and the other is a baby.

M. R. BOWIE, *Secretary*.

#### SUMMARY OF TREASURER'S REPORT.

Whole amount collected since February 1st, 1887.....	\$230 75
“ “ expended “ “ “ .....	177 67
Amount in treasury.....	\$ 53 08

Under the resolution offered by Mr. Carr, the paper of Mr. Snyder, upon “The Public Education of Indigent Children,” was called up, and after some discussion participated in by Messrs. Carr, Sypher, Schaefer, Brumbaugh, Sloan, and others, the further discussion of it was postponed until the next annual meeting.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Mr. Worst has prepared a paper on the admission of able-bodied persons into almshouses; it was to have been read to-morrow, but he wishes to read it now, and I move that he be allowed to do so.

#### MR. PRESIDENT, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN OF THE CONVENTION :

Among the many questions of interest and importance which are annually presented to you for your consideration, this one ought to claim some attention. However strange it may seem to those who have not investigated the subject, it nevertheless is a fact there are annually supported in the almshouses of this State a large number of men who are able-bodied and able-minded. There are numbers of individuals sturdy and strong in physical frame, upon whom can be found no manner of disability, and whose intellects are unclouded and free from all taint of that dread disease insanity, who annually are consuming the bread that the benevolence and charity of our taxpayers have provided for the sick and the needy, and the distressed. This is not right; it ought not to be, and yet it is the fact.

That this is a fact, is evidenced by one of the questions which the superintendents of the various almshouses are called upon to answer in their annual report, namely: What has been done, or can be done,



to prevent able-bodied men from wintering in almshouses? and the various answers given and the remedies suggested, are indicative of the difference of opinion, on this seemingly plain and simple subject. In the first place, it must be perfectly plain to every one, that able-bodied and able-minded men *ought not* to be supported from the poor funds of the State. No taxes are more cheerfully paid, and no moneys more willingly given by the citizens of this Commonwealth, than are those which are used to feed, and clothe, and minister to those unfortunates, upon whom God has laid the finger of disease, and whom old age has found helpless and poverty-stricken. All the more careful then ought we, who are the trustees of that money, and by law appointed, to see that it is judiciously expended. To see that we are faithful to the trust reposed in us, and that only those who are deserving become the beneficiaries of this public charity.

The responsibility is entirely upon the Directors of the Poor and Superintendents of the County Almshouses. We cannot shirk our responsibility. We, and we only, can solve the problem. What have we done to prevent this misappropriation of the charitable funds? This is the question which has presented itself to the Directors of our county, and is one which appeals directly to the consciences of every sincere and honest guardian of the charity funds of this State. It is idle to comment on the utter disregard of moral duty, which is thus openly displayed, when an able-bodied man walks up to the door of an almshouse, and unblushingly asks to sit down and eat the bread which belongs to another, who is aged and decrepit. Such exhibitions of shamelessness are familiar to superintendents all over the State. It needs no argument to prove that such persons who are able to work and will not, are entitled to no assistance, and certainly to none of the charity funds of the county. This being admitted, it becomes very clear that there can be no trouble in solving this problem from a theoretical point of view. Looking at it in that way, there can be no manner of difference between us, and after all, in considering questions like this, which involve such grave things, as moral rights and moral duties, it is well to know that we start out resting on the moral certainty of being correct in our premises. Of being assured that we are right in theory. Able-bodied men have no moral right, either in theory or practice, to one cent of the charitable funds of the county or State. The only question for us is the practical one. What should we do, and what can be done, to prevent them from getting the benefit of the funds? How can we best protect the deserving ones, who cannot protect themselves, and who



have a right to look to us for protection? That is the question for us to decide.

In the first place, we say, by receiving such persons in the almshouses, we are doing a great wrong to the community, and placing a premium on and encouraging pauperism. The one principle that should guide us in whatever we do, is certainly to make them self-dependent, to teach them if they want bread to sustain life, they must work for it. How shall we remedy this great evil of harboring this class in the county almshouses, men who ought be out in the world shouldering their own responsibilities of earning their own living? By every obligation that is upon us, our bounden duty is to do all we can to decrease the pauperism that has become so universal, by refusing positively any support or maintenance to such as are able to work. It is no excuse to say they cannot attain work. In this garden spot of the earth, in this grand old Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, no man will starve for the want of work.

It is interesting to note the various solutions of this problem offered by the different counties, in their answers to the question in their annual report. One suggests that the authorities of the poor try to find employment for such as apply who are able to work; another suggests the passage of a bill compelling them to work on the roads and streets, and that the State should give them employment in that way. But we submit that, that is an entirely false principle to act on. No one has a right to shift the responsibility of finding his own work and earning his own living upon others, for that responsibility is on every one, and if we encourage such a thing, we are putting a premium on pauperism, we are dwarfing their manhood, we are not fair and just to that great body of men who are themselves working out the problem of life, relying on their own powers. They must be made to know they must make use of their abilities and depend upon themselves, and not on public charities.

Another suggests that workhouses be built where they can be employed. But we submit again that, that would be very unfair and unjust to the various industries of our State, which have been nursed and founded without State aid, and which would then be brought into competition with pauper labor and pauper prices. The State was not organized to find or to give employment to its citizens. It was established primarily and secondarily to govern and protect its citizens in the enjoyment of their several rights. An able-bodied man has no more right to ask support from the State, than he has from his more industrious neighbors.

Another magnanimous and philanthropic superintendent suggests as a remedy, that a law should be passed to compel attendance at public schools. With entire sympathy with the spirit of this suggestion, we submit that, that is an impracticable solution of the problem, and besides, compulsory education could not reach beyond early childhood without interfering with the personal freedom and liberty which belongs to every one who becomes a citizen of the stars and stripes.

Still another offers the wholesale remedy, as follows: stop emigration, educate the young to labor, stop the manufacturing of spirituous liquors. There would not be time in this brief paper to discuss the principles which underlie this remedy. To place emigration under certain restrictions, is undoubtedly right and proper. To educate the young to labor, is an obligation resting upon parents, and if it were properly carried out, would most assuredly banish much of the pauperism in the future. To advocate the prevention of manufacturing of spirituous liquors, introduces a very serious question, and one it would be even idle to touch upon in this paper. But we must deal with the present, and with facts as are presented. The suggestion of the Superintendent of the Fayette county Almshouse heartily agrees with me in saying, do not admit them under any circumstances whatever.

*Mr. Brumbaugh (Blair):* The paper of Chas. S. Snyder, that was to be followed by discussion, is to be found on page 167 of last year's report of the proceedings of this Convention. Now to a part of this paper as presented by Mr. Snyder, there are some exceptions taken. I suppose his design is to have separate schools for the care of that class of children spoken of, that these children ought not in any way to mix or be brought up with other children. That they are of such a character that they would have a demoralizing effect upon putting them in families and placing them in public schools, that their influence upon the legitimate children of our public schools would be of such a character that would have a tendency to demoralize, and that they ought to be brought up in separate classes. To this there has been a serious objection to this paper, and it has been suggested that this ought to be brought out and discussed by this Convention.

*Mr. Roney (Philadelphia):* I have no desire to say anything in the absence of Mr. Snyder, and I move that the matter be post-

poned till the next Convention to give Mr. Snyder a chance to say what he has to say on the question, and let us determine it fully in his presence.

Motion seconded.

*Mr. Carr*: The motion is out of order.

*Mr. Roney*: You can postpone a resolution to a point of order.

*Mr. Carr*: I think he is taking advantage of the situation. When the programme was first made, this was one the most important things to be discussed.

*Mr. Price*: I hope the gentleman from Philadelphia will withdraw his motion to lay it over.

Motion withdrawn.

Here followed a short discussion on the paper.

*Mr. Milligan* (Philadelphia): I beg leave to submit the following:

"Indigent children," as they are classed in the paper before the Convention, are usually homeless children. In most cases the family home has been broken up, and the mother and children reduced to want through the drunken habits of the father, sometimes also the mother, but most frequently the father is the author of the family destitution. It is a familiar and oft repeated tale of miserable and distressed mothers when seeking relief and shelter for themselves and their children, that the father has deserted them and the landlord has turned them into the street homeless. Of course "the drink" is at the bottom of it. Now what can be done for such helpless and homeless children? I do not intend to shirk or evade the question before the meeting. The child needs education, but first of all he needs a home, and I propose that we send him to a kind family home where the little outcast will find shelter and love under the care of a warm-hearted motherly mother. I cannot think of anything better than that, a home, a family home with a mother to run it. If anything better can be suggested we will take the best offer, and house our little homeless friend at once. As nothing better than the family home is offered to us, we send him to his new home.

Now for the question of his education, and to begin, let us decide what branches he must learn so as best to fit him for his probable future position in life. His education is to be "public education," by which I understand he is to be educated at the public expense.



The taxpayers are to defray the charges for his education. This being granted, I would propose to include in his education all the discipline and training furnished by the daily routine of life in a decent family home, where he will be brought into daily and hourly contact with real working life, and where helpfulness and industrious habits will become a second nature to him. I should prefer—always—that this school of the family should be in the country where the essential hygienic conditions of poor air, wholesome food and plenty of exercise, (the child calls it play,) may be secured, and so develop a healthy and robust frame for the coming man. He can learn the three R's at the public school, and as much more as his opportunities will allow, and just here I think, such amendments to the existing law as would secure more time and opportunity for the bound child to attend school would be desirable, even if the family should be paid something to help support the child. Selecting good moral homes where the child will be protected from the contagion of evil companionship, we may expect good results from this one system of education, and we have good results; almost invariably these country-educated children early develop into self-reliant and independent life, and are not at all likely in after-life to become a burthen on the community either through trampism or pauperism.

But it may be objected that such a scheme as I have sketched would be inadequate to do more than educate and qualify boys to become farmers' helps and girls domestics or house servants, whereas the paper under discussion is far more liberal and generous, recommending the State Legislature to utilize the Soldiers' Orphans' Schools—when they are vacated—to be turned into public free boarding houses and training schools for the class of children described as "indigent," and, as I understand it, those schools are to be for this indigent class only.

But would this be wise legislation? It was well done in the State to care for the orphan children of the men who laid down their lives for her on the battlefield, and nobody grudged the yearly appropriations to support and educate the soldiers' boys. Each man who wore the blue and fell at Gettysburg, held a lien on the State for the benefit of his orphan children, and good faith, gratitude and State honor recognized the bond as sacred and holy. Without this, the ceremonies and the flowers of Decoration Day would be a hollow mockery.

But would it be well, after the soldiers' orphans have vacated the schools, to select the class of indigent children to take their places, to be fed, clothed and educated at the public expense. How would such invidious legislation be regarded by the honest, hard working



man, who by hard struggling and constant toil keeps his children in food and clothing, and sends them to the public school? Would he not feel discouraged? Would he not lose heart and begin to think that it was not worth while to struggle to keep himself and his children above dependence. His drunken, improvident neighbor's children are being well fed, clothed and educated at the public expense. Why should not his? He broods over the thought, and anon, he takes a drink to cheer him up, a few months suffice to demoralize the man, and place his children among the ranks of the indigent, and himself in the house of correction. But we must not by unwise legislation thus offer a premium for vice and improvidence. We must not discourage the hard wage earner who is manfully struggling to keep his family above pauperism.

Is it likely, however, that any such disastrous results would follow in the event of these institutions being utilized in the way recommended? Not only do I believe such results would be likely, but I believe they would be inevitable.

I hold that the influence of the average institution for children is, in the main, deleterious, both physically and mentally, besides affecting the parents injuriously, having a tendency to increase improvidence and pauperism.

To prove the truth of these charges I shall, with your permission, read to you a few extracts from a report of the State Board of Charities of New York, on the Institutions for the care of Destitute Children of the City of New York. This report was sent to the Legislature of the State of New York, in January, 1886.

"In 1875, (previous Acts still continuing in force), what is commonly known as 'The Children's Law,' was passed, by which it was forbidden to send able-bodied, intelligent children between the age of two and sixteen years to a poor house or almshouse, and the various magistrates, superintendents, overseers of the poor, and other authorities were empowered to provide for such children in families, orphan asylums, or other appropriate institutions.

In commenting on the effect of this law, so far as its principal object is considered, (that of separation of dependent children from pauper associations and their removal from degrading influences, cannot be questioned. But in operation it has had drawbacks which ought to be remedied. Under this law and its various amendments, the magistrates of New York city commit children to the various sectarian and private institutions of the city, and the board of estimate and apportionment appropriates for the support of all children so committed a weekly per capita of \$2.

Since the passage of this law, and apparently as a consequence of its provisions, not only has the number of dependent children increased in a ratio out of proportion to the increase of population, but the sectarian institutions of the city have likewise increased in a remarkable degree. In 1875 there were 9,353 children on Randall's Island and in private institutions, who cost the city \$757,858 in that year. The new law went into operation on January 1, 1876. In 1885 there were on Randall's Island 747 children, all diseased, crippled, or mentally defective, and in private institutions 19,256 children, costing the city \$1,505,663.

Commenting on these figures the report goes on as follows: Apart from all considerations for the immediate pecuniary interest of the taxpayer, it is well to consider the effect of the present system, (that is the institution system,) upon the parents, and upon the condition of society in the future.

In regard to the children themselves, it may be said to be an acknowledged fact, that the large institution tends to produce on its inmates, after the lapse of a certain time, effects that are not desirable for those who ought eventually to become independent, self-reliant members of society. Children kept long in an institution, (in a well managed institution, of course,) are apt to lose their power of guiding themselves, and are not fitted for life on an equal footing with those who from childhood have had all their faculties exercised and trained. After the effect upon the children must be considered the influence on their parents of being deprived of the care and responsibility of their children. One of the strongest motives to self-control, to exertion, and, indeed, to all virtue, is removed, when parents are relieved of all care of children during their tender years; the sources of the greatest happiness of the average human being are destroyed, and the tie between parents and children can never become what it otherwise would be; in fact, the very foundations of the safety of the State is struck at by destroying the home.

The evil to the community at large is two-fold. The unnatural education of children who are collected in an institution during their early years, develops a class of persons who are more likely than the average man or woman to become dependent on others for their maintenance, while the unnatural freedom from care, responsibility, and human ties, which results to their parents from being relieved of their support, often, undoubtedly, causes these latter to become mischievous members of society.

These extracts from the New York Report have a relevancy to the subject before the Convention in their general application to the

question of institution life for children, and are certainly very suggestive.

The authorities of New York do not seem to have used their liberty to send their children to private family homes ; at all events, the report is silent on that subject.

My own experience in the care and supervision of this class of children agrees with and confirms the views of Commissioner Lowell, who wrote the report regarding the influence of institution life on such children.

With the work of placing children in family homes, the visiting and general supervision of them in those homes, and the results obtained, I am tolerably familiar. For the orphan, the homeless and deserted outcast child, there is no asylum or institution to compare with a good family home. Under the institution system of New York, the extracts from the report just read, show an enormous increase in the number of dependent children, with a corresponding increase in the amount of the public money necessary to support them. Under the operation of the system of boarding the children in family homes, adopted in preference by the late Board of Guardians, and continued by the present Board of Charities and Corrections, the annual reports of the Children's Department show a decrease in the number of children admitted ; this decrease has been steady since the new law regarding children went into operation. I believe the system of boarding the children in family homes, generally at some distance in the country, has in a measurable degree caused this decrease.

Under the asylum or institution system, when a mother can see and visit her child frequently, she is apt to take advantage of the chance to keep the child in the institution as long as she is permitted ; when, on the contrary, it is sent to board in a family home, as a rule she reclaims the child as soon as her improved circumstances enables her to do so.

I represent the views of the entire Board of Charities and Corrections of Philadelphia, in opposing the purpose of the paper before the Convention. The family home system works so well, that any movement, such as here recommended, advocating a return to the institution system for children, we think would be a retrograde step, and a grave mistake.

*Mr. Carr (Fayette):* Mr. President, I beg leave to submit the following resolution :



RESOLVED, That the thanks of the Convention be tendered to Mr. Hamerley, for the use of the Opera House; also, the Commissioners of Fayette county, for the use of the Court House for the deliberations of this Convention.

The motion was seconded and adopted.

The programme having been finished, President French appointed Messrs. Price and Brumbaugh a committee to escort President elect Roney to the Chair.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* I move that a vote of thanks and kindness be given the retiring President for the highly successful manner he has acted in that capacity for the past two years, and for the able manner in which he has discharged the duties of this Convention.

Motion seconded and carried.

*Mr. Roney:* Permit me to thank you, gentlemen, for this honor you have conferred on me to-day. I must say that it is a very great surprise to be elected President of this Association. I desire to thank you, and I hope I will be as successful in the discharge of my duties as the retiring President has been for the past two years.

The Convention here adjourned to meet in Altoona, on the third Tuesday of October, 1889.

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On Wednesday morning, October 17th, the Association visited the Fayette County Almshouse, when they were received by Supt. Carr. After inspecting the various departments, an informal meeting was held in the office, President Roney presiding. On motion, a committee of three was appointed, of which Wm. Ramsey of Pittsburgh, was chairman, to prepare appropriate resolutions upon the death of Mr. James S. Todd, Secretary of the Board of Guardians of the Poor of Pittsburgh, whose death occurred since the last annual meeting of the Association. A vote of thanks was returned to Supt. Carr and the Board of Directors of the Poor of Fayette County, for their attention and courtesies shown during the session of the Association.



The delegates then proceeded to the Soldier's Orphan School at Dunbar, nine miles from Uniontown, where they were received by Mr. Watters, and after lunch the various departments of the school were visited, and short addresses made to the children by Messrs. Brown, Sypher, Shipman, French, Rolshouse and others. The visitors were very much pleased with the appearance of the children, and the general condition of the school in all its various departments. The visitors returned to Uniontown at 4 o'clock, P. M.

## CONSTITUTION.

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ARTICLE 1. This organization shall be known as the "Association of the Directors of the Poor of the State of Pennsylvania."

ART. 2. The members of this organization shall consist of the Directors, Guardians and Overseers of the Poor of the several Poor Districts of the State, and all who have at any time served as such; the officers of all almshouses in the State; the members and officers of the Board of Public Charities; Superintendents and Managers of the several Insane Hospitals and the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-minded Children; the officers and delegates of all Reformatory, Charitable and Benevolent Institutions or Associations.

ART. 3. The object of the Association shall be that of investigating and considering all questions concerning pauperism and dependency, to devise means for the prevention of the same, to suggest legislation, to establish a personal acquaintance between the Directors of the Poor of the several Districts, and so far as possible have a comparison of their different systems of management.

ART. 4. Its officers shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, one Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected annually, and hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and have signified their acceptance of the office.

ART. 5. Their several duties shall be such as usually pertain to those official positions, and they shall be governed by such parliamentary rules as are usually recognized.

ART. 6. The Association shall hold annual meetings at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the members at a regular meeting.

ART. 7. The President, the Vice-Presidents and Secretaries shall constitute a permanent Executive Committee to arrange business and make all the arrangements necessary for each succeeding meeting.

ART. 8. The Treasurer shall pay out of the funds of the Association, only on the order of the President, countersigned by one of the Secretaries.

ART. 9. The Treasurer shall submit his account at each meeting which shall be audited by a committee appointed for the purpose.

ART. 10. The expenses necessary for the holding of each meeting shall be assessed on each Poor District represented, which shall be paid to the Treasurer.

ART. 11. Any person interested in the work of the Association will be admitted as an honorary member by a vote of the active majority present.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of the members present.



# ALMSHOUSE DIRECTORY

—OF—

PENNSYLVANIA

—FOR—

1888.





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This Directory of the almshouses of the State of Pennsylvania was prepared by A. J. Ourt, M. D., Secretary of the State Committee on Lunacy, and it is the first Directory of the kind that has ever been prepared. It has been of great value and assistance to the authorities of the various Poor Districts of the State, and is printed here by permission of Dr. Ourt.

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ALMSHOUSE DIRECTORY.

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The State of Pennsylvania is divided into sixty-seven counties.

In eighteen counties there is neither a county, district or local almshouse, viz.: Butler, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Forest, Fulton, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Monroe, Pike, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Union and Wyoming. In these counties the poor are supported by what is known as the "township system." Under this system overseers are elected, with power to collect a tax and disburse the money received in such manner as they may deem best calculated to carry out the object of the law; they, in some instances, either purchase or rent a house in which to keep their poor, while in some townships the poor are boarded with such persons as are willing to accommodate these indigent charges of the public on terms named in proposals, the overseers accepting those who make the lowest bids. In addition to these methods of providing for the poor in nearly all the counties, there is considerable outside aid.

In the remaining forty-nine counties there are sixty-five almshouses, established under special acts of Assembly, into which the poor are collected and maintained at the expense of the counties or poor districts for which they were established, viz:

Thirty-four counties have each a county almshouse, *i. e.*, a single institution for the indigent poor of the whole county, viz: Adams, Beaver, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Bucks, Cambria, Chester, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Mercer, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Schuylkill, Somerset, Tioga, Venango, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland and York.

Eight counties have each a single district or local poor house, *i. e.*, for the poor of a city, borough, township, or of several boroughs or townships combined, they are: Armstrong, Carbon, Clinton, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean\* and Wayne.

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\* The almshouse of this county is for the poor of the whole county, except the city of Bradford.

Two counties have each two local or district poor houses, viz: Montour and Northumberland.

Two counties have each three district poor houses, viz: Allegheny and Columbia.

Two counties have each four district poor houses, viz: Philadelphia and Susquehanna.

And one county, Lackawanna, has five district poor houses.

Of the thirty-four county and thirty-one district or local almshouses, making a total of sixty-five within the State, only twenty-four contained insane at the end of the year, September 30, 1887, to wit: Sixteen county, eight local or district poor houses. The county institutions contained 514, the local poor houses 384 insane, making a total of 898.

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#### ADAMS COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Henry Deardorff, President, Arendtsville; Franklin S. Cromer, Gettysburg; Aaron J. Rohrbaugh, Green Mount.

*Steward*—Daniel Spangler, Gettysburg.

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#### ALLEGHENY COUNTY—ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOME, (ALMSHOUSE.)

*Directors*—William H. Guy, President, Beers; Frank Patterson, Secretary, Buena Vista; Joseph T. Richey, Emsworth.

*Superintendent*—William J. Glenn, Woodville.

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#### ALLEGHENY COUNTY—ALLEGHENY CITY HOME, (ALMSHOUSE.)

*Directors*—William F. Trimble, President, Allegheny City; John R. Watson, Secretary, Allegheny City; Lawrence Sloan, Allegheny City; John A. Gilleland, Allegheny City; Archie Alston, Allegheny City; Joseph Lautner, Allegheny City; William Schumacher, Allegheny City; Jacob Wahl, Allegheny City; James Shipman, Allegheny City; Amos Belcher, Allegheny City; Henry H. Phillips, Allegheny City; William Buente, Allegheny City; Andrew J. Chambers, Allegheny City.

*Steward*—John L. Rolshouse, Hoboken.

*Clerk*—William P. Hunker, Allegheny City.

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY—PITTSBURGH CITY FARM, (ALMSHOUSE.)

*Chief of Department of Charities*—Robert C. Elliott, Pittsburgh.  
*Chief Clerk*—Franklin H. Eaton, Pittsburgh.

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## ARMSTRONG COUNTY—KITTANNING POOR HOUSE.

*Overseers of Poor*—James Baker, Kittanning; George B. Daugherty, Kittanning.

*Clerk*—George T. Crawford, Kittanning.

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## BEAVER COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Richard R. Walton, President, Industry; Edward H. Douds, New Sheffield; Thomas Reed, Rochester.

*Attorney*—John Franklin Reed, Beaver.

*Steward*—John H. Ewing, Bellowsville.

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## BEDFORD COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—James Barefoot, President, Pleasantville; William W. Phillips, Bedford; George Scheirer, Bard.

*Attorney and Clerk*—Thomas Armstrong, Bedford.

*Steward*—Job S. Barefoot, Bedford.

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## BERKS COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—George G. Herbein, President, Limekiln; Jacob Miller, Tulpehocken; Isaac D. Whitman, Reading.

*Secretary*—George F. Knorr, Reading.

*Attorney*—F. K. Flood, Reading.

*Steward*—Joseph D. Hornberger, Reading.

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## BLAIR COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Joseph Robinson, President, Hollidaysburg; John Louden, Altoona; John A. Crawford, Arch Spring.

*Attorney and Clerk*—David S. Brumbaugh, Roaring Spring.

*Steward*—Philip Young, Hollidaysburg.



## BRADFORD COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Levi W. Towner, Rome ; George H. Vandyke, Ulster ; Sheldon H. Lindley, Canton.

*Clerk*—Samuel W. Buck, Towanda.

*Superintendent*—Edmund W. Putnam, Burlington.

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## BUCKS COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—George W. Walter, President, Point Pleasant ; Charles C. Williams, Lumberville ; William Wise, Tullytown.

*Clerk*—Lewis H. Clemens, Doylestown.

*Steward*—John H. Meyers, Doylestown.

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## CAMBRIA COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—George W. Easley, President, Johnstown ; George J. Myers, Gallitzin ; Jacob Shafer, Loretto.

*Steward*—Isadore Lilly, Ebensburg.

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## CARBON COUNTY—MIDDLE COAL FIELD POOR DISTRICT ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—James McGinty, President, McGinty, Carbon County ; Daniel A. Furey, Freeland, Luzerne County ; Thomas Clemans, Summit Hill, Carbon County.

*Secretary*—Samuel A. Wehr, Summit Hill, Carbon County.

*Steward*—Anthony Coll, Rockport, Carbon County.

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## CHESTER COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Joel B. Pusey, Avondale ; John S. Hope, Coatesville ; J. Preston Thomas, Whitford.

*Steward*—C. Brinton Swisher, Embreeville.

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## CLINTON COUNTY—LOCK HAVEN POOR HOUSE.

*Committee on Poor of City Councils*—John A. Robb, Chairman, Lock Haven ; James McInerney, Lock Haven ; Newton W. Fredericks, Lock Haven ; Louis Haberstroh, Lock Haven.

*Overseer of Poor*—John H. Laverty, Lock Haven.

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COLUMBIA COUNTY—BLOOM POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—Jacob Schuyler, M. D., President, Bloomsburg ; Christopher A. Kleim, Bloomsburg ; L. Mason Petit, Light Street.

*Secretary*—Leonard B. Rupert, Bloomsburg.

*Steward*—Thomas McBride, Bloomsburg.

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## COLUMBIA COUNTY—MADISON POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—Silas Welliver, President, Jerseytown ; Conrad Kreamer, Jerseytown ; Baltis Sterling, Buckhorn.

*Clerk*—Conrad Kreamer, Jerseytown.

*Steward*—Austin Correll, Jerseytown.

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## COLUMBIA COUNTY—CONYNGHAM AND CENTRALIA POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—Patrick Haley, President, Centralia ; Bernard J. Doyle, Centralia ; Thomas Darrah, Centralia.

*Clerk*—John P. Hannon, Box 243, Ashland, Schuylkill County.

*Steward*—Charles Weideman, Centralia.

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## CRAWFORD COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Henry P. Marley, President, Cochranston ; Edwin J. Bailey, New Richmond ; Walter R. Lindsay, Riceville.

*Clerk*—Orrin H. Hollister, Meadville.

*Superintendent*—Andrew J. McQuiston, Saegerstown.

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## CUMBERLAND COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Jacob Emminger, President, Mechanicsburg ; James Coyle, Carlisle ; William R. Line, Carlisle.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—Henry S. Ritter, Carlisle.

*Steward*—John E. Pollinger, Carlisle.

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## DAUPHIN COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Adam H. Shope, President, Oberlin ; Leonard W. Clemson, Agent of the Board, Dauphin ; John Conkling, Harrisburg.

*Clerk*—George A. Garverich, Harrisburg.

*Steward*—Henry D. Bachman, Box 267, Harrisburg.

## DELAWARE COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Charles M. Cheney, President, Booth's Corner ; Joseph Leedom, Manoa ; Calvert Cardwell, Upland.

*Attorney*—George Booth, Chester.

*Steward*—William Eves, Lima.

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## ERIE COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Orin J. McAllister, President, Wattsburg ; Henry Dunn, Erie ; Daniel Roberts, Cranesville.

*Clerk*—Justin A. Robinson, Erie.

*Superintendent*—William M. Brown, Erie.

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## FAYETTE COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Andrew B. Bryson, President, Uniontown ; James Hardy, Dunbar ; Elijah L. Shipley, Falls City.

*Steward*—John D. Carr, Uniontown.

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## FRANKLIN COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—John Witherspoon, President, Upton ; Levi Houser, Chambersburg ; John H. Criswel, Waynesboro.

*Attorney and Clerk*—Linn Harbauch, Chambersburg.

*Steward*—Augustus H. Etter, Chambersburg.

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## GREENE COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Emanuel Beall, President, Davistown ; Stephen U. McNeely, Secretary, Oak Forest ; Cephas Grimes, Treasurer, Waynesburg.

*Steward*—William Cage, Waynesburg.

---

## HUNTINGDON COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Morris Gutshall, President, Three Springs ; James F. Thompson, Neff's Mills ; Samuel P. Brumbaugh, Grafton.

*Clerk*—George W. Whittaker, Shirleysburg.

*Steward*—Jackson Lamberson, Shirleysburg.

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LACKAWANNA COUNTY--BLAKELY POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—James J. Lynch, President, Olyphant ; Patrick Kearney, Treasurer, Archbald ; John R. Jones, Secretary, Olyphant.

*Superintendent*—James P. Thatcher, Greene Grove.

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## LACKAWANNA COUNTY—CARBONDALE CITY POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—James B. Falkner, President, Carbondale ; Patrick F. Moffit, Carbondale ; M. F. Gilmartin, Carbondale ; Patrick F. Murray, Carbondale.

*Secretary*—M. F. Gilmartin, Carbondale.

*Steward*—Frank E. Moore, Carbondale.

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## LACKAWANNA COUNTY—HILLSIDE FARM ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—John Stewart, President, Scranton ; Patrick J. Murphy, Dunmore ; Henry B. Rockwell, Scranton ; David M. Jones, Scranton ; Lewis Pughe, Scranton ; John Gibbons, Scranton ; Frederick W. Berge, Scranton.

*Secretary*—Edward J. Lynett, Scranton.

*Superintendent*—Charles S. Fowler.

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## LACKAWANNA COUNTY—NORTHERN LUZERNE POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—Stephen D. Miller, President, Edella ; Thomas Smith, Dalton ; George W. Beemer, Clark's Summit ; Merritt H. Coon, Clark's Green.

*Secretary*—John C. Higgins, Clark's Green.

*Superintendent*—George Vosburg, Clark's Summit.

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## LACKAWANNA COUNTY—RANSOM POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—Lewis C. Hessler, President, Moosic, Lackawanna County ; Lewis Seibel, Treasurer, Pittston, Luzerne County ; Paul Bohun, Pittston, Luzerne County ; John Youngs, Jenkinstown, Luzerne County ; George B. Seamans, M. D., Pittston, Luzerne County.

*Secretary*—Paul Bohun, Pittston, Luzerne County.

*Steward*—Jacob Place, Ransom.



## LANCASTER COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Daniel Herr, President, Refton ; B. F. Weaver, Salisbury ; Jacob S. Strine, Columbia ; William Good, Cedar Lane ; Reuben W. Bard, Lincoln ; Emanuel H. Hershey, Gordonville.

*Secretary*—Harry K. Myers, Lancaster.

*Steward*—George E. Worst, Lancaster.

*Physician*—E. B. Landis, M. D., Lancaster.

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## LAWRENCE COUNTY—NEW CASTLE POOR HOUSE.

All poor matters are managed by City Councils, under Act May 22, 1879. P. L., p. 67.

*Director*—William B. Lutton, New Castle.

*Warden or Steward*—George L. Leslie, New Castle.

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## LEBANON COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Henry Miller, Sr., President, Lebanon ; Henry Smith, Lebanon ; Matthias Sheets, Kleinfeltersville.

*Clerk*—Samuel Weiss, Jr., M. D., Lebanon.

*Steward*—Jacob A. H. Boger, Lebanon.

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## LEHIGH COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Willoughby Guth, President, Allentown ; John W. Schwartz, Coplay ; Alexander P. Toxell, Ruchville.

*Clerk*—Salvanus A. J. Kern, Wescosville.

*Steward*—Moses Kern, Wescosville.

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## LUZERNE COUNTY—CENTRAL POOR DISTRICT ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Owen B. McKnight, President, Plains ; Michael McNerty, Wilkes-Barre ; Marx Long, Wilkes-Barre ; Stephen B. Vaughn, Kingston ; Abram Nesbit, Kingston ; Ira Davenport, Plymouth ; Eugene N. Alexander, Nanticoke ; Andrew J. Bellas, Nanticoke.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—Abram Nesbit, Kingston.

*Superintendent*—Moses K. Eichelberger, Nanticoke.

---

LYCOMING COUNTY—WILLIAMSPORT CITY ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—John Hartman, President, Williamsport; Lewis G. Huling, Williamsport; Horace H. Blair, Williamsport.

*Secretary*—Horace H. Blair, Williamsport.

*Steward*—Nelson S. Hill, Williamsport.

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## McKEAN COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—James Anglun, Bradford; Philetus M. Fuller, Bradford; James A. McKean, Smethport.

*Clerk*—Murry B. Greer, Smethport.

*Superintendent*—John R. Chadwick, Smethport.

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## MERCER COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Sylvester Reznor, President, Clarksville; George Allen, Worth; Hugh Lackey, Sheakleyville.

*Attorney*—W. H. Cochran, Mercer.

*Steward*—George Caldwell, Mercer.

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## MIFFLIN COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Joseph Winters, President, McVeytown; John R. Garver, Kishacoquillas; Albert Steinbager, Lewistown.

*Clerk*—Samuel J. Brisbin, Lewistown.

*Steward*—Lewis H. Ruble, Lewistown.

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## MONTGOMERY COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—John O. Clemens, President, Gehmans; Harry S. Lowery, Gwynedd; William G. Wright, Norristown.

*Clerk*—David H. Ross, Conshohocken.

*Steward*—Joseph Johnson, Phoenixville, Chester County.

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## MONTOUR COUNTY—DANVILLE AND MAHONING POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—James Woodsides, President, Danville; John C. Roberts, Danville; Curtis S. Brooks, Danville.

*Clerk*—William M. Russell, Danville.

*Steward*—Oscar Ephlin, Danville.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY—VALLEY TOWNSHIP POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—William Curry, President, Danville; Joseph Corell, Danville; Charles Wesley Cook, Danville.

*Clerk*—John Hendricks, Danville.

*Steward*—Henry Fry, Danville.

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## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Jeremiah Bauer, President, Bath; Peter Edelman, Hecktown; Charles Teel, Kesslersville.

*Attorney*—Calvin G. Beitel, Easton.

*Steward*—Herman Schmidt, Nazareth.

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## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—SUNBURY POOR HOUSE.

*Overseers of Poor*—Peter Bowen, Sunbury; Jacob Renn, Sunbury.

*Attorney*—Charles M. Clement, Sunbury.

*Matron*—Elizabeth Haas, Sunbury.

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## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—COAL TOWNSHIP POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—Thomas O. Gara, President, Shamokin; Samuel Coutts, Treasurer, Shamokin; Joseph Woolcock, Shamokin.

*Secretary*—Francis Schleif, Shamokin.

*Warden or Steward*—Joseph Woolcock, Shamokin.

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## PERRY COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Rev. John Garman, President, Sherman's Dale; John Wilt, Blain; John Freeland, Newport.

*Clerk*—Henry D. Stewart, Landisburg.

*Steward*—Peter G. Kell, Loysville.

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## PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—PHILADELPHIA CITY (BLOCKLEY) ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—James W. White, M. D., President, Philadelphia; Richard A. Cleemann, M. D., Philadelphia; Robert Laughlin, Philadelphia; Richard C. McMurtrie, Philadelphia; James Stewart, Treasurer, Philadelphia.

*City Office of Bureau of Charities*—No. 42 North Seventh street, Philadelphia.

*Secretary*—Robert C. Floyd, No. 42 North Seventh street, Philadelphia.

*Superintendent*—George Roney, Philadelphia.

*House Agent*—Oliver P. Bohler; to whom all correspondence relating to non-residents should be addressed.

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PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—ROXBOROUGH POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—John Culp, President, Roxborough; William H. Dawson, Levering St., Roxborough; Daniel W. Bussinger, Blue Bellsfill, Germantown.

*Secretary*—Daniel W. Bussinger, Blue Bellsfill, Germantown.

*Attorney*—Horatio Gates Jones, Roxborough.

*Steward*—William Orrell, Roxborough.

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PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—GERMANTOWN POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—Christian Donat, President, Chestnut Hill; Alexander P. Keyser, Secretary, Germantown; John J. Crout, Treasurer, Germantown; Josephus C. Gilbert, M. D., Chestnut Hill; John F. Neiman, Germantown; John G. Schuler, Germantown; William F. List, Germantown; Joseph Sheets, Germantown; Horatio J. Benson, Germantown.

*Attorney*—G. Harry Davis, Philadelphia.

*Steward*—Henry Laut, Germantown.

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PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—OXFORD AND LOWER DUBLIN POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—George M. Shallcross, President, Frankford; Samuel Hilles, Treasurer, Frankford; William B. Hilt, Frankford; Jacob R. Titus, Tacony; William Dedeker, Bustleton; Myers F. Livesey, Fox Chase; Frank M. Richert, Holmesburg; H. Maxwell Rowland, Holmesburg.

*Secretary*—William B. Hilt, Frankford.

*Steward*—William B. Hall, Holmesburg.



## SCHUYLKILL COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—William W. Brown, President, Dow; David Gorman, Mahanoy City; George Heffner, Schuylkill Haven.

*Clerk*—Joseph H. Gorman, Schuylkill Haven.

*Steward*—Lewis J. Brown, Schuylkill Haven.

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## SOMERSET COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—John C. Barron, President, Somerset; George F. Schmucker, Somerset; Jacob M. Fike, Somerset.

*Attorney and Clerk*—Louis C. Colborn, Somerset.

*Steward*—William W. Baker, Somerset.

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## SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY—NEW MILFORD POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—Dennis Houlihan, President, New Milford; Edward J. Tyler, New Milford; Lewis W. Tennant, New Milford.

*Clerk*—Lewis W. Tennant, New Milford.

*Steward*—Sylvanius L. Dix, New Milford.

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## SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY—SUSQUEHANNA BOROUGH AND OAKLAND TOWNSHIP POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—John J. Ahearn, President, Susquehanna; Charles Boyden, Susquehanna; Fernando E. Brush, Susquehanna.

*Secretary*—Charles F. Curtis, Susquehanna.

*Steward*—George Foster, Susquehanna.

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## SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY—MONTROSE AND BRIDGEWATER POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—Abel H. Patrick, Montrose; William W. Williams, Montrose; Willis E. Babcock, Montrose.

*Secretary*—Byington Thatcher, Montrose.

*Steward*—Ashman C. Ayres, Montrose.

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## SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY—AUBURN AND RUSH POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—James Rooney, West Auburn; Lester Turrell, Birchardville; Jerry Stephens, Niven.

*Secretary and Attorney*—William N. Barnes, Rush.

*Steward*—William Gardner, Rush Four Corners.

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TIOGA COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Harry D. Wheeler, Wellsboro ; Seth Tremain, Westfield ; Gerould D. Dennison, Charleston.

*Clerk*—Frank Watkins, Wellsboro.

*Superintendent*—Charles Austin, Wellsboro.

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## VENANGO COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—William A. Maitland, President, Franklin ; Samuel H. McKinney, Franklin ; James D. Patterson, Franklin.

*Clerk*—A. Jordan Ward, Franklin.

*Steward*—Henry A. Culp, Sugar Creek.

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## WARREN COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE (ROUSE HOSPITAL).

*Directors*—Harvey T. Russell, Russell ; Philip N. Robinson, Scofield ; Joseph Clinton, Sheffield.

*Clerk*—C. H. Meacham, Warren.

*Superintendent*—Reuben P. Davis, Youngsville.

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## WASHINGTON COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—John C. Sloan, President, Buffalo Village ; Joseph Farquhar, East Bethlehem ; William B. McKennan, Washington.

*Clerk*—Edward G. Cundall, Arden.

*Superintendent*—Edward G. Cundall, Arden.

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## WAYNE COUNTY—HONESDALE AND TEXAS POOR HOUSE.

*Directors*—Michael Herman, President, Honesdale ; Christopher C. Lane, Secretary, Honesdale ; Edward Brown, Treasurer, Honesdale.

*Attorney*—Peter P. Smith, Honesdale.

*Steward*—Adolphus M. Henshaw, Honesdale.

## WESTMORELAND COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Jacob Gettemy, President, Donegal ; Joseph D. Cope, Secretary, Ruff's Dale ; Samuel Bell, West Newton ; Daniel Reamer, Greensburg ; Samuel Galbraith, Ligonier.

*Superintendent*—Lyman Hillis, Greensburg.

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## YORK COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

*Directors*—Alexander Kidd, President, York ; Samuel L. Witmer Hanover ; Frederick Lehman, Hellam.

*Clerk*—William Platts, York.

*Steward*—Frank S. Zinn, York.

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THE  
Fifteenth Annual Session  
OF THE  
ASSOCIATION  
OF  
Directors of the Poor,  
OF THE  
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,  
HELD IN  
ALTOONA, PA., OCTOBER 15, 1889.

---

PITTSBURGH:  
PRINTED BY MYERS, SHINKLE & Co., 523 WOOD STREET.  
1889.



THE FIFTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
Association of Directors of the Poor,  
OF THE  
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

---

FIRST SESSION.

The fifteenth annual session of the Directors of the Poor, of the State of Pennsylvania, convened in Library Hall at Altoona, Pa., October 15th, at 10 A. M., and was called to order by President Roney.

*The President:* I would now call upon the Rev. E. D. Weigle to lead us in prayer.

PRAYER:

Almighty God our heavenly Father, we adore thee as God, blessed forever more. As the one in whom we live and move and are. We thank thee for this bright morning, for this hour, for this occasion. We thank thee for these men and women in convention assembled, engaged in philanthropic work in our Commonwealth. Be pleased to manifest thyself unto them very graciously. May the officers and members of this Convention be under the especial favor of heaven, in their interchange of thought, in the devising of plans for the better caring for the poor, the neglected and the imbeciles in mind or body, may they be under divine guidance and influence. We thank thee that the willing mind, the tender heart and the helpful hands of women who have been enlisted in this work, as these shall meet as a children's aid society, may thy blessing rest upon them. We thank thee for the inspiration that comes to us, in all unselfish,



helpful endeavor, from the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, when on earth, went about doing good, healing the sick, restoring sight to the blind, causing the lame to walk, raising the dead to life, and cheering the hearts of the poor with his presence and blessing. We thank thee that he revealed the fact that those who serve the most and best those in need are the greatest in the kingdom of God. To this end we pray thy blessing upon every member of this Convention and upon all the interests entrusted to their care. Have mercy upon all poor, insane, intemperate ones; pity the children of these. Do thou continue to raise up men and women who shall give them their time, their service and their means for the alleviation of the suffering, so abounding in the world. When we have been faithful and devoted in imitating our master and helping our less fortunate fellowmen, when the end comes, may we have the sweet satisfaction to look back over a life that has been linked with Christ's in faith, obedience and humanity's uplifting service, and may we be welcomed unto the joy of our Lord, because doing these things unto the least of his brethren we have done them unto him, to whom with the Father and the Holy Spirit we will ascribe the praise of our salvation forever and ever. Amen.

The President here introduced Edmund H. Turner, mayor of city of Altoona, Pa., who delivered the following address of welcome:

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the Convention:*—It gives me sincere pleasure to see you in our city. The mission in which you have come is of itself the surest passport to the regard and esteem of our people. The cause in which you are engaged,—that of relieving those whom sickness, accident or misfortune render unable to care for themselves, is a most noble one, and one on which holy writ calls down a blessing and the declaration of the Psalmist, “blessed is the man that careth for the poor and needy—the Lord will remember him in the time of trouble,” is well calculated to animate and encourage you in your often arduous duties. I feel that it would be inopportune to make any extended remarks to you, however I may feel inclined to do so, I will simply add that I trust that your stay among us will be not only profitable but agreeable, and when you leave us you may

carry with you pleasant memories of our city. In the name of our city and in behalf of the citizens I extend to you a hearty—a very hearty welcome to Altoona.

*E. P. Gould* (Erie County), said in reply to Mayor Turner :

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, and his Honor, the Mayor of Altoona:* I regret exceedingly that I have been called upon, without any previous notice, to respond to the cordial welcome extended to the delegates of this Convention by the people of Altoona through their chief magistrate. My position reminds me of an incident which occurred in the life of Benjamin Franklin. It is well known that when Benjamin Franklin was our Minister Plenipotentiary to the Court of Versailles, he, with all of the other representatives of foreign nations at the Court, was invited to a royal dinner given by the king. When the hour arrived he alone among all the diplomats from the other nations who were arrayed in the gorgeous robes and decorated with the dazzling emblems of the various orders and ranks to which they were entitled—he alone appeared in the simple garb of an American citizen, and won for himself great popularity for his supposed republican simplicity. It is not so well known that the only reason why he appeared in that simple republican dress was because his tailor failed to get his court dress ready in time ; and my apology for not making the reply to the whole-hearted welcome we have received, which I desire to make, is that I have not had time to prepare it. I cannot claim that versatility of talent which a distinguished English orator once attributed to Lord John Russell, when he said that Lord John was ready at a moment's notice to perform the difficult operation for a cataract, take command of channel fleet, or go up in a balloon ; and yet, it seems to me, one must be stupid indeed who could not say something in response to the warm, hearty and cordial greeting, and the unstinted hospitality extended to us by the people of this wide-awake and thriving city.

In looking over this Convention, Mr. Mayor, you see a large gathering of ladies and gentlemen from the various counties of the State, whose minds and hearts as well as their time have been given unselfishly in caring for and relieving the wants of the

unfortunate poor in their several localities. They have met here to report the method of their work in the various counties of the State, and get broader views of the work in which they are engaged. We hope and trust that this Convention will be a notable one in the history of this Association, in the great good which it will accomplish, and that the good people of Altoona will have just cause to rejoice over and long remember with pleasure, our coming here. We heartily thank you, and through you the good people of Altoona, for the cheerful greeting we have received, and the broad hospitality extended.

*The President :* Ladies and gentlemen, I desire at this time to extend my sincere thanks to the large number of delegates who have assembled here to-day to participate in the deliberations of this convention. I trust that the questions that are presented for discussion will guide to that which is honest and of the greatest importance. We will now proceed with the regular business of the convention.

Mr. McGonnigle presented the following programme of the business of the meeting, prepared by the committee, which was adopted :

Tuesday, October 15th, 1889, 10 A. M.—Call to order by President Geo. Roney, of Philadelphia ; address of welcome by Hon. E. H. Turner, Mayor of Altoona ; enrollment of delegates, appointment of committees, etc. 12 M. Adjourn to

2 P. M. Verbal reports will be received from the various counties, districts and societies represented. These reports to be brief, and to relate to the various systems of relief, especially as to any new features of the same, or any other matters which may not have been previously reported. The afternoon will be spent in this way, and in the discussion of any topics that may be suggested or have been named in the programme. "The employment of inmates of Almshouses under wages" will be presented for discussion. 6 P. M. Adjourn to "The employment of tramps" will be presented for discussion.

8 P. M. It is expected that the Commissioners to revise the poor laws, will hold a conference upon their work in the evening of this session. Delegates are requested to come prepared to present to the Commissioners such changes in the poor laws as seem desirable for the relief of the dependent classes. The work of this Commission is of great importance, and the meeting of the Commissioners at this time cannot fail to be of interest and profit.

Wednesday, October 16, 1889, 9 A. M.—Report of Committees, and other business. "What our Commonwealth has done for the care of the insane" will be presented by Hon. Lewis Pughe, followed by discussion. "History of the

Association and benefits resulting from its organization," will be presented by R. D. McGonnigle, Esq., to be followed by such other business as may be presented. 12 M. Adjourn. The afternoon will be spent at the Blair County Almshouse, taking the train at 2 P. M., and returning at 5.30 P. M.

8 P. M. The evening session will be called to order at 8 o'clock, during which session an opportunity can be had for the presentation and discussion of such other business as may be presented. It is anticipated that the Senate and House Committee on charities and corrections will be present and participate in the proceedings.

Thursday, October 17th, 1889.—The day will be spent at Lloydsville, on the Bell's Gap Railroad. Arrangements have been made for an excursion to this point. Invitations have also been extended to visit the Railroad Shops, the Altoona City Hospital and Roaring Springs.

In addition to the above programme, the following topics have been suggested, to be taken up as opportunity affords, viz :

1. "The appointment of all employes of Almshouses to be made by the stewards, subject to the approval of the Boards of Directors."
2. "Regulation of admissions to Almshouses."
3. "Charity organization."

This programme is subject to such changes and re-arrangements as to time of presentation of papers, and business, as may be decided upon.

ROBERT D. MCGONNIGLE, *Cor. Secretary.*

*The President:* The Secretary will please call the roll, and the delegates present will please come forward and present their names to the Secretary in writing.

The following delegates responded to the call.

ADAMS COUNTY--Franklin S. Cromer, Adam J. Rohrbaugh, John Deardorff, Dr. J. C. Felty, Edward M. Bender.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny County Home*—W. H. Guy and wife, Joseph T. Ritchey and wife, William J. Glenn and wife.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny City Home*—A. Alston and wife, Frank G. Bawer, Jacob Wahle, William Schumacher and daughter, James Shipman, John L. Rolshouse, William P. Hunker.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Pittsburgh City Farm*—George Hoffman, George Linderman.

BEAVER COUNTY—Col. R. Walton, John H. Ewing and wife.

BEDFORD COUNTY—George Scheirer, Abel Johnson, J. S. Barefoot.



BERKS COUNTY—J. D. Whiteman, Abraham Schlegel and wife, F. K. Flood, Dr. R. B. Schultz and wife, Dr. J. S. Herbin and wife, Miss Eleanora Webber, George Knorr.

BLAIR COUNTY—John Loudon, John A. Crawford, A. J. McKee, D. S. Brumbaugh, Philip Young and wife, Dr. H. H. Brotherline, Rev. C. C. Bartells.

CHESTER COUNTY—J. Preston Thomas, John S. Hope, Joel B. Pusey, C. Brinton Swisher, William R. Purdee.

CRAWFORD COUNTY—H. P. Marley, W. R. Lindsley.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY—James Coyle, William R. Linn, Jacob Emminger, W. A. Kramer.

ERIE COUNTY—Henry Dunn, William M. Brown, E. P. Gould.

FAYETTE COUNTY—James Hardy, E. L. Shipley, J. R. Caruthers, John D. Carr.

FRANKLIN COUNTY—A. H. Etter, J. A. Witherspoon and wife, D. L. C. Houser and wife, Thomas E. Fuller and wife, Linn Harbaugh.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY—S. P. Brumbaugh.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Scranton Poor District*—Hon. Lewis Pughe, P. J. Murphy.

LANCASTER COUNTY—Daniel Herr, E. H. Hershey, Reuben W. Bard, George E. Worst, Jacob S. Strine, Benj. F. Weaver, H. K. Myers, William Good.

LEBANON COUNTY—M. K. Sheetz, Henry Smith, William Caruthers, Jac. A. H. Boyer, Samuel Weiss, Jr., M. D.

LUZERNE COUNTY—*Central Poor District*—O. B. McKnight and wife, Max. Long and wife, Ira Davenport and wife, N. J. Bellis and wife, Moses Eicherberger.

MERCER COUNTY—W. L. Alexander and wife, John C. Allen, G. M. Caldwell.

MIFFLIN COUNTY—John R. Garver, Lewis H. Ruble.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY—William G. Wright, J. H. Johnson, David H. Ross.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—*Sunbury Poor House*—Peter Bowen, Jacob Renn.

PERRY COUNTY—John Wilts, P. G. Kell.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Germantown*—John J. Crout and wife, Alexander P. Keyser and wife.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Philadelphia City Blockley Almshouse*—George Roney and wife, George Milliken.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Oxford and Lower Dublin*—Jacob Titus and wife, George M. Shallcross and wife, Charles S. Snyder and wife, Mrs. Meyers Livesey, J. Howard Morrison, Esq.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY—David Gorman, George Heffner, Lewis J. Brown.

SOMERSET COUNTY—J. M. Fike, John C. Miller, L. C. Colborn.

VENANGO COUNTY—James Patterson and wife, Samuel McKinney and wife, William Maitland and wife, Henry A. Culp and wife.

WASHINGTON COUNTY—Joseph Farquhar, William B. McKennan, J. C. Sloan, E. G. Cundall, M. S. Pense.

YORK COUNTY—James S. Bailey, Frederick Lehman, F. S. Zinn.

### CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES.

*Philadelphia*—Mrs. J. C. Biddle, Mrs. Susan J. Leslie, Mrs. Anna F. Wilson, Miss C. H. Pemberton.

#### CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, WESTERN PENNA.

*Allegheny, Pa.*—Mrs. Archie Alston, Mrs. James R. Darrah, Mrs. Mary P. Sampson.

*Chester County.*—Mrs. Lydia B. Walton, Mrs. Elizabeth B. Passmore.

*Fayette County.*—Miss Frances Howell, Mrs. A. D. Ewing.

*Jefferson County.*—Mrs. Parker Blood.

*Venango County.*—Mrs. H. A. Culp.

*Blair County.*—Mrs. E. Piper, Mrs. J. Loudon, Mrs. John Crawford, Mrs. J. M. Johnson, Mrs. D. S. Brumbaugh, Mrs. J. B. Hileman, Mrs. A. J. McKee.

*Washington County.*—Mrs. W. F. Hamilton, Miss Lemoyne.

*Fayette County.*—Mrs. F. T. Hogg.

*Westmoreland County.*—Mrs. J. W. Moore, Mrs. S. J. Townsend.

*Bedford County.*—Miss F. G. Langdon.

*Venango County.*—Mrs. Richards, Mrs. Fisher.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CHARITIES AND CORRECTIONS.—  
Hon. James L. Graham, Allegheny Co., Hon. A. A. Clay, Elk Co.,  
Hon. James W. Walk, Philadelphia Co.

COMMISSION TO REVISE AND CODIFY THE POOR LAWS OF THE  
STATE.—R. D. McGonnigle, William Lawson, Hon. Lewis Pughe,  
J. Nevin Hill, William N. Appel, William Ed. Marsh.

PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM  
CRUELTY.—George H. Smith, Philadelphia.

HOME FOR FRIENDLESS—*Erie County*—Miss Sarah Reed.

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES—Cadwalader Biddle.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* Mayor Turner is present and has a word  
to say.

*Mayor:* I understand that members of this Convention have  
expressed a desire to visit the railroad shops, I wish to say that it  
would afford me pleasure to escort as many through the different  
departments as desire to go.

*The President:* I will thank you most cordially in behalf of  
the convention and will notify you in ample time.

*Mr. Morrison:* I would like to know if the Committee on  
Legislation is ready to report.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* At the Uniontown meeting a Committee on  
Legislation, consisting of Hon. S. H. French, Pittsburgh; J. R.  
Sypher, Philadelphia; Wm. M. Brown, Erie; and myself were  
appointed to secure the necessary legislation to codify and revise  
the laws with reference to the relief, care and maintenance of the  
poor. The Committee took up the work immediately after the  
adjournment of the Convention, had the necessary bill drawn, and  
offered early in the session. We had the valuable assistance of  
the various members of the Association, and in this way was able  
to exert considerable influence, the bill is what is known as House  
Bill 182, Pamphlet Laws 140.

In this connection it would be well to state, the Committee feel  
under obligations to Hon. Wm. T. Marshall, Allegheny Co., for  
the attention he gave to the matter. The passage of this Act is of  
very great importance to this Association, and to all present in-  
terested in the relief, care and maintenance of the poor in this  
State. The Governor has appointed the following persons on the

commission to codify and revise the poor laws: John Nevin Hill, Northumberland; Wm. Lawson, Philadelphia; Wm. N. Appel, Lancaster; Hon. Lewis Pughe, Lackawanna; Wm. E. Marsh, Erie; Hon. D. Watson Rowe, Franklin; and R. D. McGonnigle, Allegheny; and we have the pleasure of meeting the Commissioners here to-day for the purpose of conference and consultation, and presenting them our views of this work, I wish to state that it is their desire, that at this evening's session that the members of the Association will express to them their ideas as to what is required in the way of a revised code of poor laws. The opportunity to express our views to a Commission appointed for the special purpose of revising and codifying these laws is something we have desired for some years, and I trust the members will take advantage of the opportunity afforded this evening. In this connection I would also state that we have with us Hon. Jas. L. Graham, Capt. Clay and Hon. W. J. Walk, members of the Legislative Committee of State Charities and Corrections, who are with us to-day for the purpose of conference and consultation.

Mr. Snyder moved the report be received, and a vote of thanks be extended to the Committee on Legislation for the effective manner in which they did their duty, which was agreed to.

On motion, the members of the Commission to codify and revise the Poor Laws, and the Legislative Committee of State Charities and Corrections were invited to participate in the proceedings of the Convention.

On motion, the Committee on Legislation was continued.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* In this connection, I think it would be proper to state now, that at the last session of the Legislature there were one or two bills passed relative to the management of almshouses, etc., and the fact of their passage does not seem to have been made public, and to this end I would move that copies of all the acts passed at the last session of the Legislature relating to the relief, care and maintenance of the poor be printed as an appendix to the proceedings of this meeting. This was carried on motion, and so ordered to be done.

*President:* The Hon. Lewis Pughe, Chairman of the Commission to revise the Poor Laws, is present with us, and we would be pleased to hear from him as to any suggestions he may have to make.



*Mr. Pughe:* I do not think it proper at this time to enter into a discussion in regard to the plans of the Commission for the reason we have not yet formulated any particular programme. We had our first meeting yesterday, and affected temporary organization: this evening however, should be pleased to have the members of the Association make any suggestions to us as to what their ideas are in reference to our work, and we will then have something from which to build.

*President:* We should be pleased to hear from Hon. Jas. L. Graham, member of the Legislative Committee of State Charities and Corrections.

*Mr. Graham:* Mr. President, you will excuse me at this time for not entering into any discussion, as I am here for the purpose of gathering statistics and hearing your views on the various matters pertaining to your work. The members of our Committee expect to gather considerable information from you, and many questions to ask pertaining to the dependent classes: I do not know that I have anything to suggest now: we are simply here on the mission of gathering information. This evening I should be pleased to listen to any suggestions any of the members may have to make in regard to our work.

On motion the meeting adjourned until 2 o'clock, P. M.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION, 2 P. M.

*The President:* I would call upon the Rev. J. F. Hartman to lead us in prayer.

The Secretary will proceed to the roll, counties and names belonging thereto.

On motion the following Committee on next place of meeting was appointed: Mr. Worst, of Lancaster county, Mr. Flood, of Berks county, Mr. Swisher, of Chester county, Mr. Witherspoon, of Franklin, Mr. Brown, of Schuylkill county.

*Mr. Brumbaugh, (Blair):* I move that an Auditing Committee be appointed to audit the Treasurer's report. Agreed to.

And the following committee was appointed: Mr. Brumbaugh, Blair; Mr. Shipman, Allegheny; Mr. Snyder, Lower Dublin.

On motion Messrs. Colborn, Somerset County ; Keyser, Philadelphia ; Linderman, Pittsburgh ; Ross, Montgomery County ; Cundall, Washington County, were appointed a committee to suggest officers for ensuing year.

*Mr. Wright*, (Montgomery) : offered the following resolution : which was adopted.

*Resolved*, That when this Convention adjourns this evening, it will be until ten o'clock to-morrow morning instead of nine o'clock as named on programme.

2d. That this Convention accept the invitation extended by the Mayor of Altoona to this Convention to visit its industrial works, and we name to-morrow morning between eight and ten o'clock A. M., for said visit.

*Mr. Brumbaugh* : All persons who wish to visit the P. R. R. shops to-morrow morning will report to me some time during the afternoon ; according to the programme we were to take a trip up the Bells Gap, but some of the delegates say they would prefer a trip to Johnstown instead. If that is the wish of the Convention, I would like to know sometime in advance so as to make arrangements with the railroad company.

*The President* : It has been moved and seconded that we go Johnstown instead of going up the Bells Gap Railroad ; is it the wish of the Convention ?

On motion it was decided to go to Johnstown instead of Bells Gap on Thursday.

*The President* : The first business in order will be the verbal reports from the districts represented. The Secretary will call the roll by counties or districts, and the delegates will please make a short verbal report of their work.

*DR. FELTY*, (Adams County) : The Adams County Home, is one-half mile from Gettysburg, on the Harrisburg road. The buildings consist of a steward's house as a central building ; to the right of this, but separate from it, is the old men's house, a building erected in 1887. It has all the modern improvements, and a capacity for seventy-five inmates. On the left, and separate from the steward's house, is the old women's house, which has a capacity for twenty-five inmates. The sexes are kept separate.

We take care of our pauper insane, and for this purpose a hospital was erected in 1878. It is a short distance from the other buildings, and is under the care of a man and his wife, whose duty it is to devote their whole time to the care of the inmates. We have at this time eighteen insane in the building, which will probably be enlarged owing to the increasing number of insane in our county. Although our insane belong to the pauper class, we are glad to report that their health has been exceptionally good. This illustrates the advantage of a building where you can give your inmates plenty of sunshine and fresh air, and there is not a room in this building that does not possess both these advantages. During my term as physician, extending over a period of six years, there has only been four deaths, and two of these inmates over 80 years of age, both of them being confined from 1865 to 1889, and each having as good health as possible for persons of such advanced age until a short time before their death. During the same period we have discharged fifteen as either improved or cured.

In reply to the question, Have you sufficient means for your feeble-minded children? I would answer, no. We have two feeble-minded children at Media, which is our full quota. I consider the Home at Media an excellent institution, but not large enough to afford accommodations for the children who ought to be sent there. I think there should be ample provisions for this class of children.

MR. GUY, (Allegheny County): I wish to say that we have an institution in good working order with a proper man at the helm. We have about 350 inmates at the Home. About 140 at Dixmont. Our directors investigate cases where out-door relief is called upon.

Mr. Ross, (Montgomery County): I would like to ask the gentleman who just took his seat, what they pay each family, in out-door relief.

MR. ROLSHOUSE, (Allegheny): The workings of the Allegheny City Home are similar to those of other institutions of the State. We have a Board of Directors, one from each ward in the city of Allegheny, making in all thirteen members.

Persons seeking admission to the Home must apply to the Director of his ward for aid; they are then sent to Major Hunker, clerk of the Board, who will investigate the case, and if a worthy applicant will be attended to at once; when sent to the Home, those who are able, are assigned such work as is necessary for their own good and the welfare of the Home. We have four insane wards, with a capacity for about one hundred and twenty patients, for the care of



which are employed six attendants,—three male and three females. Can accommodate about three hundred and seventy-five inmates in the poor department, where nurses, one male and one female, are employed to attend the sick and those who are not able to care for themselves, of which we have a great many. There is a small dining room in each hospital department, which is convenient for those who are not able to go down to the general dining room where all go for their meals who are able, except the insane.

Our farm contains ninety-six acres, which is very productive and in a good state of cultivation. We raise all our hay, vegetables and some grain; have a fine herd of Holstein cattle, and five head of good horses; also, a fine lot of hogs. With the assistance of those I have mentioned and also others, I try to manage the Home and farm to the entire satisfaction of the Board of Directors and tax-payers of Allegheny City. Thus everything works in harmony, and the best feeling prevails among all parties concerned.

In regard to the codification of the Poor Laws of the State, I have no doubt that the Commission which has been appointed by our worthy Governor, will find some difficulty in meeting the wants and demands of the different counties. I would heartily agree with Col. Gould, of Erie, in which he recommends that a general law be enacted, and then let the different counties, cities or districts repeal such old laws that may not work in unison with the new ones which may be recommended by the worthy Commission. In regard to the feeble-minded children, I would heartily recommend that steps be taken to establish such an institution in the western part of the State. Such children are not fit subjects for the different almshouses; they have no chance of learning anything good, but on the contrary, are thrown in with a class that will lead them on to vice and immorality. We have had children here who would have been proper subjects for such an institution, and no doubt have been greatly benefitted and probably become of some use, at least their surroundings and influence would be different, and, I hope, for the better.

MR. LINDERMAN, (Pittsburgh City Farm): At present there are in our home 250 inmates, probably 152 insane inmates in the asylum, 102 in Dixmont.

“How about out-door relief?” I will refer that matter to the manager of the department, Mr. Hoffman:

MR. EWING, (Beaver County): We have three directors in our county, and they receive \$3.00 per day for each day spent. The



average number of inmates in our institution last year was 81. The diet is as follows: Breakfast: bread and butter, coffee, molasses, fried mush, fried bread. Dinner: meat, potatoes, beans, cabbage, turnips, bread, tea, apple butter, garden vegetables in season. Supper: bread, coffee, molasses, mush and milk, and special diet for the sick. We have religious service every two weeks. During last year we put in fire-escapes, and a new sewer. Our farm consists of 160 acres. We raise sufficient vegetables for our own use, but do not raise a large amount of wheat or other grains.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* It occurs to me in making these reports, our members ought to try to furnish information, something in the line of what the Commission are seeking, for example, in the judgment of the member making the report. Has the state provided sufficient room for the care of the insane? Is insanity on the increase? Ought there to be additional hospital accommodations provided? That is the information these gentlemen want to get. I think we can come to that without interfering with our regular reports.

**MR. BAREFOOT, (Bedford County):** We have 67 inmates, that is including 10 in the asylum; we have no insane at the Almshouse; we have five insane at Harrisburg. We have 57 on the out-door relief paying from \$2.00 to \$5.00 per month. We have no feeble-minded children at present.

**DR. SCHULTZE, (Berk County):** We have a capacity of about 800; we have 284 inmates, which is a very small number. Persons applying for out-door relief have to swear they are residents and that they are desirous of support. We have 9 children at Media, a few at the institution; we have 97 insane at Harrisburg; we have twenty-four children; we take them away from the almshouse, they are now in the care of the Ladies Aid Society; we feel that they are in good hands.

**MR. BRUMBAUGH, (Blair County):** In response to a report from Blair County, in absence of Mr. Young, our steward, would report our institution under the present management, as being in the best and most satisfactory condition in every way, that it has ever been. Our expenditures have been steadily decreasing during the past five years. The almshouse is in as cheerful and inviting condition as it can be made; its location is one of the most beautiful in the county. The farm is large and productive, giving large yields. The crops for the

present year is over 1,200 bushels of wheat, 1,000 bushels of oats, 4,000 bushels of corn, 500 bushels of potatoes, and a large yield of cabbage and other vegetables. We shall take pleasure in having the Convention visit our institution.

We have four feeble-minded children at Elwyn. We have recently sent a child that was blind to Philadelphia. We have one or two other applicants we would like to have provisions for that is in the almshouse now. Our doctor is here and he will present the matter to the Commission. Our institution is located five miles south of here; we expect to go out. Our steward will be able to give you a report.

DR. BROTHELINE, (Blair County); Ladies and gentlemen, in Blair County, we are troubled very much as to how we shall dispose of feeble-minded children; they are sent to the almshouse; we write to the different State institutions and receive the reply that they have not room. The children are in the almshouse from one to two years before we can dispose of them. We have no provisions for caring for them at the almshouse. In reference to the blind; we had one blind boy and we sent him to Philadelphia. Mr. Biddle, of the State Board of Charities informed me that they were willing and anxious to receive children in that institution.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* You will pardon me, I was going to speak of the Children's Aid Society. Mrs. Piper has taken care of our children almost gratuitously. This blind boy was sent away from their administration, they had been caring for the child awhile.

MR. SWISHER, (Chester County): We have a farm of 365 acres, and all but 20 acres are under cultivation. The average number of inmates at the home is 206. We also have sixty-nine insane at Norristown, and nine at Harrisburg, and eight feeble-minded children at the school at Media, and two in our home. We also have about forty-eight children in the care of the Ladies' Aid Society, who are doing a grand work. We have made some improvements lately; have put up some new shelving; improved the barn; built hog pens, and put up new water closets at each end of the wing for use of the inmates. Our home is lighted with electricity. We have our own plant, giving us 125 16 C. P. lamps, lighting both the house and the barn. We have also put a new laundry, so that the engine that runs the dynamo also does the work of the laundry.

MR. LINDSAY, (Crawford County): We have a farm of 236 acres, with a fair house. We have at the present time 90 inmates. Have quite a number of feeble-minded. We paid out in 1888 about \$12,000 for out-door relief, this year it will be about the same. We pay from \$2.00 to \$8.00 or \$10.00 per month, on a personal examination of one of the members. We have some feeble-minded children. The Ladies' Aid Society have made an effort to get them in there but failed. I think it is a disgrace on the State of Pennsylvania that we should fail in getting these children in the State institutions. Dr. Carland says the State institutions are a failure; it is the fault of the State.

MR. EMINGER, (Cumberland County): We have about 120 inmates. We have an old building in which we keep a certain class, then we have a hospital building, which is comparatively new. The building was erected about twelve years ago, in that building we care for the sick and aged. About six years ago the Committee on lunacy recommended a removal of our insane to Harrisburg. We have no insane now at the home. We have 29 at Harrisburg, we find Dr. Gerhard is taking care of them. As to our feeble-minded children we have six at the present time at the Elwyn school. In out-door relief we have petitions daily which are investigated by members of the board after which out-door relief is granted, two dollars per month. Out-door aid amounts to about \$3,000 a year.

MR. LINDSAY, (Crawford County): We have a county farm of 236 acres, the most of it is pasture and tillable land, but a few acres of timber. Our house is not first-class; it is heated by steam which is entirely satisfactory. The County Commissioners and Directors of the Poor are the same Board. We employ a superintendent and matron who have charge of the poor in the house; they are assisted by two hired girls, one man as cook and baker, one hired farm hand. A physician is employed by the year who makes visits to the house regularly twice a week, and oftener when necessary. The average number of inmates is over one hundred, mostly aged, infirm persons and those of feeble minds. Our insane are kept at the State Hospital at Warren, Pa., where we have an average of over eighty persons. Our out-door relief list, which consists of over seventy-five families, is mostly widows and children; the expense of this class is annually about \$10,000. The Poor House expenses are about \$15,000; at State Hospital, for insane, \$8,000. Total poor expenses, \$33,000. We are of the opinion that the establishing of a school for feeble-minded children in the western part of the State would be



a wise thing to do. The one at Elwyn near Philadelphia, is a most excellent institution, but is not sufficient to provide for all that should be sent to such an institution. Our attention has been called to this matter by the Ladies' Aid Society, of Titusville, who have not been successful in having children admitted. The erection of suitable buildings in the northwestern part of the State for a Reform Industrial School, to which a certain class could be kept would lessen both pauperism and crime. We are satisfied that much of the pauperism and crime is caused by the use of intoxicating liquors.

MR. DUNN, (Erie): Erie County Almshouse, organized and governed under Act of General Assembly of April 8th, 1833. We employ steward and matron at a salary of \$1,200 per annum. Average number of inmates for the present year, 190, about fifteen of these imbeciles. We have in addition to these about fifty insane at Warren Hospital. We have no children under our care except four at the school of feeble-minded children at Elwyn, Pa. In our male hospital we employ one male nurse at salary of \$25 per month. In the women's hospital we employ one female nurse at \$4 per week, and one female attendant in the insane department for women at \$5 per week. We have no insane department for men. Our laundry is under charge of paid manager at \$3 per week. The cooking for the inmates is done principally by the inmates of the house under the supervision of the matron. We have a farm of about 140 acres connected with the house, and employ one farm hand as overseer, at a salary of \$25 per month. The farm work is principally done by the inmates. We raise about one-third of the flour used in the house. Also the potatoes and garden vegetables are nearly all raised on the farm. We raise our own pork. No changes in the farm since last year, except one more gas well.

We aid outside poor according to size and situation of families; from two to six dollars per month.

MR. CARR, (Fayette County): It is one year since this Convention visited Fayette County. They had an opportunity at that time to learn something about our institution. I do not know as I have anything particular to offer now. We have 160 people in the institution. No insane. We have 29 insane at Dixmont. We have not sent any there for the last two years. We have no feeble-minded children in the house; we receive none at all.

MR. ETTER, (Franklin County): The total expenses of the Franklin County Almshouse for the year 1888 was \$18,990.70,



which includes \$8,413.25 for out-door relief and State Hospital expenses. The number of inmates in the institution at January 1st, 1889, was 145. The expenses for the year 1889 will be about \$1,000 more than that of last year. The farm products were as follows: 900 bushels wheat, 382 bushels oats, 1,100 barrels corn, 550 bushel potatoes, 100 bushels turnips, 5,000 heads cabbage, 20 bushels cucumbers, 50 bushels tomatoes, 25 bushels onions, 40 bushels green beans, 10 bushels peas, 55 tons hay, 34 loads corn fodder.

S. P. BRUMBAUGH, (Huntingdon County): We have a three-story brick house 36 x 108 feet, with about 30 rooms with a capacity for about 100 inmates. We also have a hospital 18 x 30 feet, a one-story frame building. The steward and family occupy six rooms on the second floor of the main building. Our farm consists of about 174 acres of land. We give out-door relief in some cases, such as widows with families of small children; we give from \$4 to \$8 per month, according to the circumstances; we aim not to give over \$4 per month.

Mr. MURPHY, member of the Scranton Poor District, made the following report:

Our institution comprises the city of Scranton and Borough of Dunmore, Lackawanna County. The farm contains 156 acres, largely under cultivation, northern exposure, heavy clay subsoil, suitable for grass, oats and potatoes, if season is not too wet. Within the year we have completed a new brick building known as the administration building 50 x 80 feet, four stories, for use in part as residence of superintendent, resident physician and families. This building is connected by corridor leading to east and west wings built of brick and fire-proof, 45 x 90 feet, three stories high, known as the insane department, with a capacity of 150 to 180 inmates. At present, there are ninety inmates, in charge of Dr. Andrew Strong, resident physician, with four male and four female attendants.

The pauper department is a three-story brick building 50 x 100 feet, known as the woman's department, with a capacity of 75 to 90 inmates, first story as a kitchen and dining room for men and women, second and third stories as dormitories for women only. Two frame buildings are still in use as dormitories for men sufficiently large to accommodate the number here at present, later on a new and larger building will be required.

For the use of the insane and pauper department there are two large flue boilers for generating steam, a plant for the manufacture of gas from gasolene, steam laundry, artesian well, reservoir, etc.

We have an octagon barn 70 feet in diameter, with basement story for cattle, second story for horses and wagons, with room above to store 100 tons of hay, also barn for storing grain, housing farm implements, etc., also blacksmith shop, carpenter shop and chicken house, the latter just completed.

At the last inventory the real and personal property amounted to over \$160,000, at present will not fall far short of \$190,000.

The average number of inmates of the almshouse for the year ending October 1st, 1880 was 12 2-3 and the per capita cost for the year 1888 for maintaining paupers and insane, including food, clothing, fuel, light, medicines, salaries of superintendent, resident physician and attendants was \$1.86½ per week.

Our best men as workers come from the asylum, young and capable of doing work as laborers, when in charge of an attendant, although not competent to go out into the world to do and care for themselves.

Chores about the building and farm are done by the old men, some of them competent to care for themselves, if it were not for the fact, that broken time it would be impossible to pay board and clothing working in and about the coal mines. Our best women workers come from that class who are here during confinement, who are obliged to stay for at least three months after being confined, as a partial remuneration for favors received.

MR. ALEXANDER, (Mercer County): I did not expect to say anything to-day; we expected our steward to make a report for us; Mercer County has a building costing \$112,000; I do not know what the capacity is. We have on an average about 100 inmates in the winter, in the summer less, it is not near full. Have no arrangement for insane. We have 23 at the Warren asylum. I think we have one feeble-minded in a hospital at Philadelphia, and I think two blind. Our out-door relief amounts to about 100. I think we furnish relief to 100. We have 85 in the house, about two-thirds male. It is with difficulty that we get the females in the house, they fight rather than go, the men are not so particular. Our steward will tell you more about the house. We have three directors. The county is divided into three districts. The directors investigate cases applying for out-door relief; try to find out whether they have means themselves or whether the county is entitled to care for them. We are giving from \$1.75 to \$8.00 per month, our books show about three to five dollars on an average. I do not know as I have much more to say, we endeavor to do the best we can, sometimes we have

difficult questions to decide. In our county pauperism is increasing. We have a good many up there who work in coal mines, more paupers come from that source than any other place. We do not take any more children to the poor house, we have no right to keep a child there over sixty days unless it is an infant or feeble-minded.

MR. WORST, (Lancaster County): There are quite a number of idiotics in the almshouses throughout the State, and in my judgment the State should furnish a proper building and maintain them as wards of the State.

We have a building very well adapted for the care of the insane, and think we can take as good care of them as they can in a State institution, where from 80 to 100 sleep in the same department. We have at present in our almshouse, 198, Insane Department 61, Hospital 67. During 1888 our daily average in the three buildings was 423.

MR. WRIGHT, (Montgomery County): A few years ago we were about to make arrangements for our insane. About the time we got ready, there was an act passed authorizing us to send them to the Norristown Asylum. We have nothing to do with the insane in Montgomery County, outside of the almshouse; they are paid for by the County Commissioners. We have on our hands ten children, who are in charge of the Children's Aid Society of Montgomery County. Our out-door relief amounts to about \$3,000 annually. We have a regular printed form requiring those applying for out-door relief to fill out and swear to. If the application is approved by the Directors, they are placed on the out-door relief, and receive a certain sum in money or groceries, but in no case is more than \$3 per month allowed. In reference to our feeble-minded, we have five at Media, that being our quota.

MR. BOWEN, (Northumberland County): The Sunbury Poor House is only for the Sunbury Borough Poor District, representing about 8,000 inhabitants. We have in the poor house at this time six inmates, four males and two females. They are furnished with good food, in fact as good as can be procured in the open market in the town of Sunbury. We are having kept three weak-minded persons outside the poor house in private families. We have one crippled boy kept in the Home of the Merciful Saviour for crippled children at 4,400 Baltimore Avenue, Philadelphia.

We do not have any steward at our poor house, only a matron. We have one acre of ground, and raise nearly all the vegetables on



this ground, that are used at the poor house. We hire a physician by the year to attend all who come under our care.

MR. KELL, (Perry County): We have fifty-six inmates. We have six insane at Harrisburg. One at Warren. Have no insane at our institution. We have no children, they are maintained in private families. At the present time we are maintaining fifteen. We had one child that was club-footed, through the influence of the lady members of the aid society in our county the child was taken to a hospital at Philadelphia, for treatment, the child is now able to walk without the aid of a brace, having almost the entire use of its limb. We have three feeble-minded children in our institution for which no provision has been made. Our out-door relief amounts to \$2,500 annually. Application for out-door relief must come before a Justice of the Peace making information and this application must be signed by four good substantial taxpayers before they can be entered on the book. Our out-door physicians are employed by the year, we pay six dollars per year whether they require medical attendance or not, for each family a year. Our annual cost including out-door support, all expenses connected with the institution run about \$8,500. We had a boy placed in an institution for cripples in West Philadelphia. He had both legs cut off below the knees by the cars, we expect to pay \$200 for his support there.

MR. CROUT, (Germantown Poor House): With reference to the insane and feeble-minded children. We have but one feeble-minded person, (it is not a child) that we are unable to care for. We tried to get the girl with Dr. Kerlin, they wanted \$4.00 per week, we thought that too much. In reference to the insane we have forty-three at Norristown. In our new building we did not think it necessary to make any provisions for the insane. Our out-door relief will amount to about \$4,800. The amount is governed by what we consider in our judgment the real necessity is. We have an out-door physician who we give about \$300 a year, we also have a physician for the home.

PRESIDENT RONEY, (Philadelphia): Blockley Almshouse comprises four large buildings, each 50 feet wide, 500 feet long and three stories in height, with an attic, and is divided as follows: Hospital, Men's Out-wards, Insane Department and Women's Out-wards. The census at this time, is about 3,080, there being 1,080 in the Hospital, 832 in the Insane Department, 600 in the Men's Out-wards and 450 in the Women's Out-wards. The area of space required for each patient in the Insane Department, would justify us in accommodating



about 650. To show our over-crowded condition, let me say that we have now, 832 patients, or an excess of about 182. In speaking of the increase in insanity, permit me to call your attention to the fact that, two years ago, we had a population of 625 against the 832 at this time.

We have a number of children under the care of Dr. Kerlin, at Elwyn. On this question, Mr. Milliken, who is with us, will have something to say.

Our farm, a small one of 15 acres under cultivation, provides the vegetables for the patients and inmates of the Institution.

On the question of the care of feeble-minded children, I think it would be wise on the part of the Convention to recommend to the Legislature of the State, such action as will provide for these unfortunates, suitable buildings not only in the Eastern but Western part of the State. The question must be met. The question is, how and when are you going to meet it. To my mind now is the time, and if it is properly met and presented to the Legislature, I am satisfied, if they are assured of the money being properly expended, there will be comparatively but little trouble in securing sufficient appropriations to procure the required homes.

MR. COLBORN, (Somerset County): Our institution was organized under a special law, April 15th, 1845, on the 1st of October, it was thrown open for the reception of inmates. We have 347 acres of land. At the close of the year ending 1888, we had seventy-seven inmates, fifty male and twenty seven female, the whole number received during the year twenty-one males and seven females, total twenty-eight. Up to September, 1889, the number died during the year eleven, seven male and four female. The number sent to Dixmont two males. Number bound out or indentured from the poor house two males, leaving September 1st, fifty males and twenty-four females in our almshouse. Number of children maintained in private families, eleven, five males and four females. Tramps relieved during the year, 212, meals furnished 549, lodging 271.

We have bound out or indentured forty-four children, twenty-two males and twenty-two females. It is the duty of our steward to visit all persons receiving relief, and report to the Board of Directors twice a year. Mrs. Wilson visited our home and assisted in the organization of a Children's Aid Society. The society have worked in with the Directors of the Poor. At our poor house it is a hard matter to find good homes. Where we have children under five years of age and over two, we give these children out to good reliable people

and pay their boarding, we pay \$39.00 a year, the amount prescribed by Court, we have an agreement with these people for the treatment of the children in a proper manner, reserving the right to remove the children if we see fit, some are anxious to have them even before they become five years of age. We have two insane at Harrisburg, three at Dixmont, they are sent there by the Court. This convention according to the remarks of many seems to strike in the wrong direction, they ought to strike at the right thing and try to prevent an increase of insanity throughout the state by recommending more stringent laws relative to marriage. There are so many many subjects of interest that this board the poor laws ought to take into consideration.

MR. SNYDER, (Philadelphia Pa.): There was in Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor House last year an average of thirty-four men, sixteen women, and two children, and we lodged 892 tramps. The farm consists of 145 acres of good arable land, and products were sold to the amount of \$2,795.81. The receipts from taxes were \$9,333.42, and revenue from all sources amounted to \$16,059.04. We paid for out-door relief \$2,855.45; salaries \$875, and to the Trustees Insane Hospital \$1,646.21, the total expenses were \$15,862.71. The farm and buildings are valued at \$45,000; stock \$6,525. There is an indebtedness of \$12,500. There was raised on the farm and consumed in the house, produce to the amount of \$1,201.86. There are no able bodied persons in the home. We prosecute the fathers of all illegitimate children wherever found. The institution is managed by eight directors, four of whom are elected each year, and they serve without pay.

MR. CULP, (Venango County): Our County Commissioners are our Poor Directors. We have a farm of 275 acres, 175 acres are cleared the balance is timber. We raise all the vegetables and garden truck we need, and make all the butter and milk we want. We raise wheat for flour and have meat enough to do us one-half of the time. Our house is 200 feet long, and 180 feet wide, three stories high. We use natural gas for fuel. We keep two teams of horses, and one yoke of oxen, and have 50 head of cattle. We have religious service in the chapel every two weeks. We have from seventy-five to one hundred inmates, besides these we have forty-nine insane patients at the North Warren Insane Hospital, and one at Dixmont. We have six feeble-minded children at the training school at Elwyn, in the care of that excellent man, Dr. Kerlin, who I think should have charge of all the feeble-minded children in the

State. I have visited the institution several times and it is indeed a grand place for those unfortunate children. From the year 1845, until the present time, we have placed fifty-five children in good homes, and have got situations for mothers with children, and found places for families with children to live, to the number of forty-four more. Six have died and four have been taken to Elwyn, making in all 109. When we get places for children, we first place them on trial a certain time, and if the people like the child, and if they are the proper person to have it, we let them keep it, if they are not we go and get it and put it somewhere else. The places we have got so far are good, and it is surprising to read some of the letters we get from those who have got children from us, they send us the child's pictures and say how nice the baby is, that it can walk, that its hair is going to curl, that it has two teeth, that it is too nice for anything, and why don't you come and see it, and so on. The outside relief I do not know much about, our directors can tell you that better than I can.

MR. ZINN, (York County): The total expenses of the York County Almshouse last year were \$24,609.41, which included \$2,196 for our-door relief. The number of inmates December 31st, 1888, was 168; daily average of inmates, 171; tramps admitted during 1888, 439. Method of out-door relief, we pay \$5.00 every three months from October 1st, to May 1st, except in a few cases that we pay this the entire year. The products of the farm for last year were as follows: Wheat 1,029 bushels; corn 1,249 bushels; oats 578 bushels; rye 13 bushels; potatoes 525 bushels; onions 24 bushels; red beets 10 bushels; tomatoes 82 bushels; turnips 10 bushels; hay 60 tons; cabbage 5,000 heads; butter 1,543 pounds; beef slaughtered 12,849 pounds; pork slaughtered 9,058 pounds; and veal 520 pounds.

MR. SLOAN, (Washington County): We have no prepared report on file in the public volume. We are down in numbers 147 inmates, often in the summer the number will run down and in the winter season will reach as high as 240. We have a Children's Home who board about 53. We have a Ladies' Aid Society in our county and trust we will be able to accomplish much good in the coming years. In the reports in reference to feeble-minded children it is very conclusive to my mind that we ought to have proper legislation bearing on that subject. We ought to have institutions in different parts of the State. Insanity is largely on the increase.



MR. RUBLE, (Mifflin County): This is the first time I think, our county has been represented in this convention. I think our remarks should be directed to the manner and mode of caring for the poor in the different counties. I feel as though there should be a general law, some of the counties have to make their own laws. We have a farm of 200 acres. Our expenses amount to about \$3,800. We have eleven insane at Harrisburg. Through the kindness of the ladies of the Children's Aid Society we are able to find homes for our children, we never kept one over sixty days. In regard to out-door relief, I suppose it amounts to about five or six hundred dollars per year. Before giving out-door relief we investigate thoroughly.

On motion, the next topic on the programme, "Employment of Inmates in Almshouses under Wages," was passed and the meeting adjourned until 8 o'clock, P. M.

### EVENING SESSION.

*The President:* The hour of eight having arrived the Convention will please come to order.

I have here the report of the committee appointed to select the next place of meeting. The committee present a report signed by three in favor of Lancaster, and two in favor of Reading, both agreeing to the third Tuesday in October, 1890, as the time of meeting.

A motion was made to substitute Reading for Lancaster, which was voted down, and the original report signed by three members in favor of Lancaster and the third Tuesday in October, 1890, agreed to.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Would it not be better for this Convention to adopt the report of the Committee and then vote on the question Reading or Lancaster.

*Mr. Colborn, (Somerset):* Mr. Chairman, the Committee appointed to name officers of the Association, recommend the following persons as officers for the ensuing year:

For President, Hon. James L. Graham, Allegheny, Pa. Vice-Presidents, John J. Crout, Germantown; D. S. Brumbaugh, Blair County; William G. Wright, Montgomery; J. M. Fike, Somerset; Mrs. Wilson, Philadelphia; Recording Secretary, William P.



Hunker, Allegheny ; Corresponding Secretary, Robert D. McGonigle, Allegheny ; Treasurer, William M. Brown, Erie.

The report was read and adopted.

*Mr. Snyder :* The Auditing Committee is now ready to report.

We, the undersigned auditors, having examined the accounts of William M. Brown, Treasurer of the State Association of Poor Directors of Pennsylvania, we find that the expenses, including the indebtedness at last audit to be \$679.00 and that the receipts and collection are \$475, leaving a balance at this time of \$204.95 due Mr. Brown, Treasurer, as per amount attached. The Committee recommend an assessment of \$20 on each poor district to liquidate the present debt and square up accounts for the present year.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES J. SNYDER,  
JAMES SHIPMAN,  
D. S. BRUMBAUGH.

There being no objection the report of the Committee was adopted.

### TOTAL COLLECTIONS.

*Wm. M. Brown, Treasurer, Dr., to following collections :*

1889.

Germantown, Philadelphia.....	\$15 00
Chester County Children's Aid Society.....	5 00
Chester County Poor District.....	15 00
Lancaster County Poor District.....	15 00
Allegheny County Children's Aid Society.....	5 00
Blair County Poor District.....	15 00
Washington County Poor District.....	10 00
Washington County Children's Home.....	5 00
Perry County Poor District.....	15 00
Adams County Poor District.....	15 00
Allegheny City Home.....	15 00
Scranton Poor District, (Hillside).....	15 00
Children's Aid Society, Philadelphia.....	15 00
Allegheny County Home.....	15 00
Crawford County Home.....	15 00
Northampton County Home.....	15 00
McKean County Home.....	15 00
Middle Coal Field Poor District...	15 00

Frankford & Lower Dublin Poor District, Philadelphia.....	\$10 00
Northern Luzerne Poor District.....	5 00
Somerset County Poor District.....	15 00
Lebanon County Poor District.....	15 00
Montgomery County Poor District.....	15 00
Sunbury, (Northampton County) Poor District.....	5 00
Mercer County Poor District.....	15 00
Westmoreland County Poor District.....	15 00
Cumberland County Poor District.....	15 00
Luzerne County Poor District, Kingston, Pa.....	15 00
Berks County Poor District.....	15 00
Lackawanna County Poor District, (Blakeley Poor House)...	5 00
Bedford County Poor District.....	15 00
Delaware County Poor District.....	15 00
Franklin County Poor District.....	15 00
Schuykill County Poor District.....	15 00
Jenkins Township, Pittston Borough and Pittston Township.	5 00
Department of Charities, Pittsburgh.....	15 00
Cambria County Poor District.....	15 00
	<u>\$225 00</u>
Brought forward.....	250 00
Total collections.....	<u>\$475 00</u>

## ACCOUNTS PAID AND RECEIPTS FOR SAME.

*By following Expenditures, Cr.*

Indebtedness at time of last audit, (Uniontown).....	\$102 88
Telegrams and Postage.....	9 00
Circulars, Programmes and Letter Heads.....	15 00
Telegrams, Postage and Expressage.....	6 45
Paid Stenographer.....	100 00
“ McGonnigle, Secretary.....	34 00
“ back printing account (Myers, Shinkle & Co).....	15 25
First payment McGonnigle, Secretary.....	41 00
Paid Myers, Shinkle & Co. (on printing report).....	100 00
Sent McGonnigle draft, balance acc't, (printing annual report)	253 50
Sending Draft and Exchanging Co. Money Orders, &c.....	2 87
Total Cash paid out.....	<u>\$679 95</u>
Total Collections made.....	575 00
To balance due Treasurer.....	<u>\$204 95</u>

WM. M. BROWN,

*Treasurer Association.*

*Mr. McGonnigle:* The next topic on our programme for this evening is "The Employment of Tramps." From what was said this morning, I move the topic be laid over for the present, and in view of the fact that we have with us the Commission to codify and revise the Poor Laws, that we make their work the subject of this session.

Agreed to.

*Commissioner Pughe:* My understanding of the meeting this evening was to listen to the suggestions of the representatives of the various poor districts, concerning the revision of the Poor Laws. One of our members, Commissioner Hill, has given the subject more consideration than any gentleman on the floor. He has made a study of these questions both in America and Europe, and an address from him would really be a pleasure and I would move that Commissioner Hill now be heard.

Agreed to.

*Mr. Hill:* I came to the meeting this afternoon with a good deal of interest, having an interest in the subject of alms. I did not expect to be met with such an introduction. I do not feel that I deserve such high eulogy. Mr. McGonnigle wrote me that it was deemed advisable that the members of the Commission should meet at this Convention, so I came, although I had been overworked, having traveled considerable during the past two weeks. I undertook to write out the following few thoughts:

All fundamental changes or movements of civil society are accompanied with a struggle between men, or classes of men, for supremacy in the control of political forces, including what we moderns call "patronage." The Anglo-Saxon race, almost from its cradle, has widened the field of this contest. The struggle between the King and his Barons had scarcely reached a head before the great middle class grasped a share of political power and labor began to press towards the same goal, perplexing the best statesmanship of the world.

It would seem to be the natural order of things that political power should come to the whole people through these different stages. At first the greatest and most successful warrior assumes the "sacred right to govern;" then sagacious lieutenants and statescraftsmen demand a share of the sovereign power; following these come the

learned professions, merchants and skilled artisans, leaving a great body of manual laborers, upon whose shoulders the State really rests, the very last to demand its rights to a just proportion of sovereignty. It is needless to say that labor has always been handicapped with the very dregs of society—the idle, the vicious and the intemperate, not to mention those who are dependent upon the charity of others through misfortune. It is partly because of this very fact—that labor is the very last in the struggle for political power—that the offscourings of society have been confused with it; and even at this day it seems almost impossible for the English statesman to rid his mind of the notion that in legislating with respect to pauperism he is not really endeavoring to elevate the laboring class. It does not seem to him that the indigent class and the laboring class are necessarily distinct and that what the laborer needs more than anything else is freedom to maintain his legal rights upon an equality with other citizens, and not to be made a subject of experimental legislation.

One of the most intelligent modern writers upon the subject of Poor Laws, Mr. Fowle, makes this comment upon the law :

“ But the truth is, that although the raising of the working classes above the need of pauperism is in theory set forth as one, if not the principal object of legislation, yet what was said of the New York Society for Improving the Condition of the Poor applies in all cases. Its design is said to be ‘ the elevation of the moral condition of the indigent, and, so far as is compatible with these objects, the relief of their necessities.’ In practice its operations are confined to the giving of relief.”

“ But the trial of remedial measures is perhaps yet to come and meanwhile the bare statement of such aims testifies to the growing desire to promote the welfare of labor. And though Burke’s dictum is unquestionably true that it is ‘ not in the power of governments to do much good ’ yet *they can and ought to remove the evils which the ignorance or selfishness of previous generations have allowed to grow up.* And especially something can be done to put the relations of charity and State relief upon a sounder footing.”

The reason, doubtless, why the laborer is identified in the English mind with the pauper is two-fold. First, because the poor law had its origin at the time when labor was breaking loose from the status of villenage and was becoming exceedingly restless, leading to the adoption of settlement as a legal principle; and, secondly, because the administration of the statute of 43d Elizabeth was so negligent and illogical that the laboring class in England prior to 1834, had become in consequence, so to speak, reduced to a pauper class.



But speaking from the point of view of a Pennsylvanian, it is difficult to realize that in England it is found necessary, in a treatise on the Poor Law, to first define the meaning of the word "poor," and then to apologize for the existence of such a law in civil society. By the term "poor" we understand is meant those persons who are either temporarily, from accidental cause, or permanently, through misfortune, unable to provide for themselves the ordinary means of support, and towards the relief of whom we are impelled by pity or a sense of justice. It is not compatible with the dignity of our labor which is supposed to have equal civil rights, to call anyone "poor" in law for any such reason as that he would be destitute but for that manual labor which constitutes his property." We must agree with Burke in saying "when we affect to pity, as poor, those who must labor or the world cannot exist, we are trifling with the condition of mankind." The truth of it is that in legislating for the poor we are not, properly endeavoring to elevate labor, but to relieve those who are not able to labor.

One of the most familiar provisions of our Poor Law, as codified in 1836, is that for the removal of a person going into a district, not his place of settlement, *if likely to become chargeable*. In the 118th volume of the reports of the decisions of the Supreme Court of the State of Pennsylvania, (page 84,) will be found the case of *Gilpin Township vs. Parks Township*, in which the question arose as to the right to remove a man from one district to another, if he were not in need of Poor Law relief, but likely in the opinion of local magistrates, it become so. Mr. Justice Williams, in delivering the opinion of the Supreme Court, said :

"The facts important to a correct understanding of the question in this case are few and free from controversy.

"One, Alexander Williams, a colored laborer, with his wife and seven children, lived in Parks Township, Armstrong county, in December, 1884, and for nearly two years prior thereto. He had supported his family by his own labor and that of his older children, supplemented at times by the gifts of kind-hearted neighbors. He had not applied to the overseers for aid, nor had any one made application on his behalf. The overseers of the poor, however, fearing that he might become chargeable to the district which they represented, at some time, and not willing that his residence in their district should ripen into a settlement under the Poor Laws, went before two Justices of the Peace and made an affidavit that Williams and his family were likely to become chargeable to the township of Parks, and that his last settlement was in Gilpin Township. The Justices

thereupon, as the docket entries show, without notice to Williams, without the testimony of a witness, and without any form of adjudication, issued an order authorizing and requiring the overseers to remove Williams and his family to Gilpin Township. Armed with this order the overseers came to the cabin of the colored man while he and his family were at their breakfast, loaded the father, mother and four children into a wagon and proceeded to "remove" them from Parks Township.

"The colored man tells the story of his removal with simplicity and pathos, thus: 'I told him (the overseer) he need'nt bother about me, I had plenty to eat. He said he was going to take me if I did have plenty to eat. Me and my family got into the wagon. It reminded me of old times \* \* \* I told him I was not going. He said I should go, if I did not they would make me; that if I rebelled they would take me by force. He never said why I would have to go.

"Now, while in this case the Supreme Court held that the person was not removable, it will be noticed that the decision proceeded entirely upon the technical ground, that no notice of the application for the order of removal had been given to the supposed pauper. The proceeding was *ex-parte* and Williams had no opportunity either to be heard, to prove that he was not likely to become chargeable, or to offer to give bond to indemnify the district. The proceeding would have been perfectly regular had notice of the application been given to him, and then his forcible removal would have been legal. There can be no doubt but that the law of Pennsylvania to-day is that if a laborer seeking employment at more remunerative wages goes from one district to another, the overseers of the poor of the latter district may drag him before a Justice of the Peace and put him to the proof that he is not likely to become chargeable to that district, or compel him to give security to indemnify the district against such a charge and no limit is put upon overseers as to the time within which such arbitrary power should be exercised. This is in point of fact a labor law, and, in its spirit, a burden upon labor that has been lightened not by any diminution in the rigor of the law, but by the refusal of the people to enforce it. I do not think to-day it is enforced in any district in the State according to its spirit, as a rule, although numerous isolated instances of such enforcement are perfectly well known to every man who knows anything about Poor Law administration.

This provision in the Act of 1836 was borrowed by our Legislators from a British Statute of the time of Charles the Second, (1662) in the preamble of which it was stated that "poor people are not restrained from going from one parish to another, and therefore do endeavor to settle themselves in those parishes where there is the best stock," etc. It has been well said to have been an attempt "to reduce the working class to practical servitude." Mr. Fowle in commenting upon it, speaks of the reign of the second Charles, "the wickedness of which was due to a deliberate reaction against all that had been best and worthiest in preceding reigns." *Fowle* 63.

The report of the Royal Commission which brought about the reform of the Poor Law in England in 1834, says this :

"Never was such important legislation effected by means of exceptions, qualifications and hints, and seldom have any laws been so pertinaciously adhered to after the principal and in some cases the only reasons for their introduction had ceased. The direct purpose of the Act, stripped of all that qualifies it, is to enable the justices, on complaint of the church-wardens or overseers, to remove any new-comer from a parish, though not applying for relief, if they think, or profess to think, that he is likely to become chargeable," *Rep.* 85. The Commissioners' regarded this as an arbitrary enactment and said that it was difficult to conceive how it could have been tolerated even up to the thirty-fifth year of the reign of George III, when it was put an end to.

They further say : "It might have been expected that the grounds of settlement which were established when the power of removal was given, would have been reconsidered when that power was taken away. This, however, appears not to have been done. \* \* \* The consequence has been, that in this instance, as in many others, like a patient who continues the use of remedies after the disease has ceased, we are suffering under laws of which the grounds have long been removed." *Ibid.*

The effect of the enforcement of this brutal statute is well shown by a few words in a statute of the first year of James II, (*I. Jac. II, c. 17,*) reciting that poor persons "at their first coming to a parish do commonly conceal themselves." A strict enforcement of the same provisions of our Act of 1836, would doubtless have the same effect and the check upon the industrial growth of the State would shock every lover of democratic institutions.

Sir George Nicholls, himself a Royal Commissioner, and the author of a history of the English Poor Laws, said (1 *Nich.* 294-5.)



“ By this statute the industrious laborer if driven from his place of birth by want of work, deficiency of wages, or any other cause, is made liable, on his entering another parish, to be laid hold of by the parish authorities and sent back on the ground that he is likely to become chargeable. \* \* \* A like obstruction awaited the laborer or artisan who might seek to better his condition by changing his place of abode. He could nowhere feel certain of not being treated as an intruder. His claim of *country* was contracted to the boundaries of his parish or place of birth, within which alone the law allowed him a right of domicil, and to which therefore it was natural that he should limit his efforts and restrict his sympathies.”

The whole spirit of this law of removal, leading to the development of an artificial code of settlement, was more in the spirit of the ordinances of the half developed communities of nearly 700 years before. In the time of Athelstan (A. D. 924) there was a law that “ Lordless men of whom no law can be got, the kindred be commanded that they domicile him to folkright, and find him a lord in the folkmote,” (1 *Nich.* 13.) Which is to say that every slave must have his master or be driven out like a wild beast.

It seems to me that in recommending the enactment of Poor Laws, it would be proper to ascertain in the first place clearly what the true province of such laws are, and to eliminate everything which would not properly fall within the lines thus ascertained. To take a somewhat wide view of the developments and history of the class with which the poor are identified by the blindness of legislators, and rigidity of class feeling, two periods naturally separate and stand out distinctly, viz: the period during which customary prices prevailed and the period of competition. Whether we go back to the patriarchal group, to the village community or to the manor we find the absence of competition in general. The lands and stocks are owned either by the patriarchal head of the family, by the community or by the lord of the manor. The farm laborer, villein or serf is attached either to the family, or to the soil; the artisan follows the trade which his father and his ancestors followed, and is allowed for the products of his labor customary compensation only. There is no competition except such as grows up in the fairs where members of one group or tribe may contrive to over-reach the members of another, and where the maxim *caveat emptor*, or “ let the buyer beware,” has its birth. In the ordinary life of the group there is no such thing as competition. Prices are not regulated by the demand for the product of labor but by custom. Upon the breaking up of these cultivating groups, or communities, and the manumission or



emancipation of the villeins or serfs, competition begins to affect the laboring class, and under the kingdom and the nation, the poorest laborer not only may, but must hire himself under contract.

Clearly under the old state of non-competition, when labor was not free, there could be no such class as is now denominated "the poor," because the patriarchal head of the family, or the lord of the manor, was bound to provide for all those attached to his family, or to the soil, and under his dominion. But when the race became free and subject to the rule of contract, it naturally followed that those who were unable to make contracts were driven to the wall; and left to starve unless relieved by charity, or by the State.

It would therefore seem clear that it is invidious to confuse the laboring class with the poor class. The poor then, after all, are only those who cannot obtain the necessities of life through contract. Whether high-born or low-born it can make no difference. Every such person either may or must be supported by the State. Every such person is poor in the eye of the law and entitled to be supported in part by the labor of those able and willing to work, and in part by the substance of those who have accumulated.

Now whether, or not, the child of the laborer is more likely to become "poor" than the child of the statesman or the banker, it must be agreed that, if labor is bound to support itself or become pauperized, any law having for its literal purpose the preventing of of labor's moving freely and adjusting itself to the varying needs of of the times must, if enforced, bring about the unfortunate alternative.

The continuation of the Settlement Law would therefore seem to be unfair as a legalized restriction upon the right to contract and upon the freedom of the citizen, a restriction which, although not now enforced, may at any time be made a grievous burden upon those least able to bear it.

I am not prepared to say, however, that I am fully convinced that the law should be entirely abrogated. The township district system is unfavorable to such a change. But I desire to suggest to you a question that has often suggested itself to my mind. Laws in restriction of the rights of labor have always, in the long run, been unfavorable to the development of a healthy race of freemen. Yet they have always had advocates and apologists: and plausible reasons for their adoption and continuance have never been wanting. And although later on it has come to be seen that such reasons have been narrow and selfish, yet the advocates of the superior rights of one class over another, or of slavery in any form have never

hesitated to appeal to divine revelation to justify their position. Knowing this, and perceiving that the law of settlement is a labor law, directed against the freedom of labor, and that in a large portion of the State it has become practically obsolete, should we not conclude that it is the will of the people that the statute book should be rid of this relic of ancient hatreds and class prejudices that is so much at variance with modern views of the rights of individuals?

*Mr. McGonnigle:* There is quite a number of attorneys representing the various poor districts present, I think it would be proper to hear from them, as to any suggestions they may have.

*Mr. Colborn, (Somerset County:)* After hearing so full and complete an analysis as the gentleman has given us I feel a hesitancy about saying anything, yet, perhaps I may be able to make some remarks which the Commission may consider. First of all I object to the name of poor house, it is an odium to me, I never liked it, never liked the word almshouse. I like the word home, home for the poor or destitute better. If I had the power I would ingraft it in the laws and make it home for the poor or destitute.

We have so many various laws throughout the State, local laws, special laws for the regulation of the poor, etc. The matter of removal should be general in the same respect, just how, I am not able to say, yet I believe there is a great deficiency in this matter, this subject might be taken into consideration by this Board of revision.

Another matter, I find too little reciprocity between the different poor districts, when a poor unfortunate wanders from one district into another, to become a burden. We had a case a few years ago where a steward of one of our neighboring counties sent a poor unfortunate creature, ruined by his own hands, into our county. We had another case of a women coming to our county from one of the neighboring counties under an assumed name, purporting to have come from Pittsburgh, the directors made an effort to see if our county was entitled to care for her. We kept her there and maintained her and child for a year or more and finally she left. About a week after she left her husband came there, he had been confined in the West Penn. He told a story of the wrongs done his wife. He said she came from one of the poor houses from a neighboring county. The directors of our county had

paid out \$235.00 for that women. That is not the right spirit to manifest from one county to another. There should be a better mode of relieving the poor of the county. Instead of calling them "out-door paupers" there should be a Committee under the auspices of the Poor Directors, to look after the poor and recommend the distribution of aid. I do not know as I have any thing further to add, if I have suggested anything that could be incorporated in that law proposed by this Committee on revision I am glad of it.

*Mr. Morrison*, of Lower Dublin, discussed at some length the recommendations for the amelioration of the poor, holding that this subject is too broad and comprehensive to be discussed profitably in the few hours of this convention. The speaker could see no objection to the Settlement Laws if they are properly drawn. It is perfectly proper for the place where a man has lived in his lifetime and paid his taxes should support him in his old age or in his time of affliction.

*Mr. Biddle*, Secretary of the Board of Public Charities : No one thing more strongly impresses an observer of the institutions of Pennsylvania for the treatment of pauperism and crime than the great diversity in the system and management which prevails among them. Take, for instance, those for the care of the poor. Among the sixty-seven counties, but thirty-seven of them have county homes, governed by county authorities, and extending their aid to the entire poor of the county. In seventeen of the counties, there are one or more township poor houses, extending their aid only to the residents of these districts comprised within their limits, whilst the rest of the counties have no poor house whatever, and extend only out-door relief. In Susquehanna county, for instance, there are four township poor houses, in all embracing only a portion of the county, which have together 500 acres of land, and at the time of my last visit, had sixty cows for the benefit of the inmates. All told, those inmates did not number over thirty. In Monroe county, the charge of each poor person is committed to that citizen who agrees to assume it at the lowest cost to the county. Although this latter form seems harsh and forbidding, it is, when accompanied by rigid visitation and oversight, found in many cases to afford the best relief for the poor.



These few instances will show the necessity for the appointment of a Commission to revise the entire Poor Laws of the Commonwealth. The duties of the Commission are responsible and arduous. They must be careful to draft a law which will not unnecessarily conflict with the systems which have existed for years in many portions of the State. Where special laws have prevailed, and people have become accustomed to them, they will not willingly see their representatives vote for an Act which will introduce among them an entirely new system.

It is not alone in the laws relating to the poor that this diversity exists. It is found in our laws for the care of delinquent children. At Morganza, a State institution which receives all the delinquent children from the counties west of the Alleghenies, a charge is made to each county for the children received from it. The State alone pays the salaries of the officers, and keeps the buildings and the grounds in repair. At the House of Refuge, in Philadelphia, the management is private, the corporation owns the building and grounds, and although the children from all the counties east of the Alleghenies are sent to it, no county but Philadelphia is charged one cent for their maintenance. Why should this distinction exist? In Pennsylvania, many institutions are under private management, the like of which in other States are governed entirely by State officers. Pennsylvania is a vast commonwealth, with great diversity of interests. It requires that its institutions should have broad and generous foundations. The habits and tastes of those engaged in agricultural, mining and manufacturing pursuits necessarily differ, and the laws should be so broad and yielding, that in their enforcement they will not run counter to the prejudices of any class in the community. We are to congratulate ourselves that the *personnel* of the Commission appointed by the Governor to revise the Poor Laws of the State is of such a character as to justify us in thinking, that their deliberations will not be in vain. It is gratifying to see such an attendance on the sessions of this convention, and I believe and heartily hope that great good may result therefrom to the institutions here represented.

Mr. President: I rejoice that after long delay, we have at last a Commission to revise the Poor Laws of this Commonwealth, and I rejoice that the Commission is so well constituted, made up



of gentlemen, who will give their best endeavors to the prosecution of this work. Many of the provisions of the present Poor Laws are absolute and nearly impossible to execute. In our county, I know that some requirements of the law are not insisted upon, and the exigencies of the case have been such that our officials, our best and most conscientious officials, have been forced to exercise a discretion, which was beyond the terms of the statute. Take for example the complicated and perplexing law of settlement. Its provisions are unadapted to a large city in this age of railroads and constant shifting of the population. Hundreds of people fall into distress in Philadelphia, who regard that city as their home, and are looked upon by their neighbors as residents, and who yet are not settled there, under a strict construction of the law. Many of such people are taken care of in our almshouse, and the public demand that they should be; but their reception there is of, at best, doubtful legality. Now I am in favor of such changes in the law of settlement as will enable officials of poor boards to obey the dictates of humanity without running the risk of violating the Acts of Assembly; and I am in favor of such a general revision of the Poor Laws as will bring them into harmony with the spirit of the present age, and the sentiment of the American public.

*Mr. Gould, (Erie, Pa.):* Mr. President, after all that has been said, and so well said here to-night, it seems to me, that any thing that I might say would detract, rather than add to the information sought; but still I am willing to give the Commission any ideas I have that will aid them in any way in the performance of the important duties which have been assigned them.

Our object here to-night as I understand it, is as men experienced in caring for the needy and unfortunate poor of the Commonwealth, to give to the Commission appointed to codify the Poor Laws of the State, any suggestions drawn from experience, as will assist them in the work they have to do, and at the outset I would suggest to the Commission that it will be impossible to have passed, by the Legislature, any law they may frame, however perfect it may be, which repeals the local laws relating to the management of the poor. If that is to be attempted, gentlemen, you might just as well stop your labors now, for it cannot be done. Why do I say this? First, because we have in the State nine

or ten counties where the County Commissioners act as Directors of the Poor, and they will resist every attempt to change the law so that others will perform those duties because they are paid a per diem for the time served, and any attempts to reduce their salaries will meet with their strongest opposition. Then, next we have a large number of counties where the Ward Commissioners of the several townships have charge of the care of the poor, whose duties give them some pay, and they will oppose a change. In more than half of the counties of the State, the management of the poor is regulated by special or local laws. In most of them the people are wedded to the systems which prevail, and if you attempt by the Act you frame to change their methods, the whole influence of those counties will be brought to bear upon their respective representatives in the Legislature to defeat the bill.

Then I would say to the Commission, go to work and draft the best law you can, but do not have it repeal a single local law in the State. By so doing, you will not invite any opposition to its passage; then the counties which wish to come under its provisions can do so by repealing their local Acts. After that the influence of this Association can be looked to to have one county after another do the same until all shall have come under its provisions. This is my idea as to the best way of securing the passage of the Act you are to frame.

The county which I represent has local laws governing the management of the poor, and these laws are very imperfect, and yet it stands second to none in the manner in which its affairs are managed. This is not due to the laws, but in spite of them, the people there have been fortunate in selecting wise and discreet men for directors, who have given their time, attention and good judgment to the discharge of their official duties, and, in my opinion, no law should be framed which does not give to the officers chosen broad discretion in determining what is best to do in each individual case. Good common sense will always be the chief qualification for a good officer, then I say give the directors broad discretion and then hold them to a strict accountability for the manner in which they perform their official duties. Now, there is another thing to which I wish to call your attention. The people select their agents to care for the needy and unfortunate, and demand that they faithfully execute the trust imposed

upon them, but they do not or should not ask them to give their time and attention to the duties of their office without reasonable compensation. In our county the directors get the miserable pittance of fifty dollars per year ; then the auditors throw out their legitimate expenses incurred in the discharge of their duties ; they even disallow the expenses of the delegates to these Conventions. This is not right, and I trust all this will be remedied by the Commission.

The duties of the Directors of the Poor should never be farmed out to agents and irresponsible persons to perform. When relief is given, the people require and expect it to be done upon the judgment of their chosen officers, each application for relief should be thoroughly investigated and the officers held responsible for what is done. In our county we have a dozen or fifteen local agents who are authorized to act temporarily in emergency cases in their respective localities. They are required to report their acts at once to the directors, who personally investigate each case, and then give the agent authority and directions what to do in the future. We have one trouble in our section, owing to our location, which does not prevail so extensively in other portions of the State, and that is the tramp nuisance. I do not refer to that class of tramps who roam over the country, steal rides on the railroad, etc., so prevalent everywhere, but I mean those infirm and imbecile men who are shipped in on us by the authorities of New York and Ohio ; we get the drainage of that class both ways, from the New England States and New York on the east, and Ohio and all the northwestern States on the west, and it costs us hundreds of dollars every year to get rid of them. I hope the Commission may find some remedy for this evil, but at present I have none to suggest. We hope the Commission in the performance of their labors will come to Erie, where we will be glad to meet them, and render them any assistance we can, and can assure them, their stay with us will be made pleasant.

*Mr. Sloan, (Washington County):* We have suffered very much from the defects in our present law. In a case we had with Armstrong County we were compelled to pay a large amount, simply on account of a technicality in the law, but in equity, were not liable for one cent. I hope the Commission will

be able to prepare a code of laws that will avoid any difficulties of this character.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* Mayor Turner I think is here. He says that all of the members who wish to visit the Pennsylvania Railroad Shops, will please meet him here at eight o'clock in the morning in this room. We have made arrangements to-morrow afternoon at 1.50 to leave here for the almshouse and return on the half-past five train. I have arranged to give you an excursion to Johnstown on Thursday.

*Member:* What time will the train leave here?

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* Members desiring to visit Johnstown can leave here at seven forty in the morning and return at six in the evening.

*The President:* It has been moved and seconded that this Convention now adjourn until to-morrow morning at ten o'clock.

Motion adopted.

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## MORNING SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, October 16, 1889.

The Convention reassembled at 10 o'clock and was called to order by the President and opened with prayer by Rev. D. S. Monroe.

On motion of Mr. Snyder, a vote of thanks was returned Mayor Turner for his kindness in escorting a large number of the delegates through the car shops of the P. R. R. this morning.

*The President:* At our session yesterday, we did not have reports of the various Children's Aid Societies represented. If agreeable we will take up the matter now, and hear these reports before proceeding to any further business.

Mr. Milliken, Philadelphia, will now read a paper on the care of children.

The children's department under the Bureau of Charity, of Philadelphia, has, since the last meeting of the Convention taken a new



departure, by abandoning the old system of binding out children under indenture, till the age of twenty-one years. It is to the credit of the Children's Aid Society, of Philadelphia that they took the initiatory steps in this reform by calling attention of the Board of Directors to the importance of relieving the children from the reproach and stigma attaching to the name of "a bound child."

After a careful consideration it was decided that the system of binding out was oppressive, demoralizing and calculated to repress feeling of self-respect. As a rule very few boys were satisfied to work without any money wages until twenty-one years old. Associates and interested neighbors would instruct them that they were being unjustly treated, by being held to serve without wages when they could earn money elsewhere. As a rule the boys would abscond, and trust to chance to earn a living for themselves wherever they might find employment.

As a matter of course, this freebooting, vagabond kind of life, without any wholesome restraint or friendly guidance was very detrimental, and such boys, with their new found liberty, and without good judgment to guide them in using it aright, would quietly slide down into the condition of drunken characters, tramps and pests of decent society.

In order that the galling yoke of hard apprenticeship might be removed, and yet providing that the children should still remain under friendly guidance and wholesome restraint it was decided to abolish the old form of indenture, and adopt instead a new and liberal "Agreement" which clearly defines the obligations of the family in the treatment of the child, but does not bind him to remain with the family for any specified time, the directors reserve to themselves the authority to remove the child at any time when, in their judgment his welfare would be promoted by such removal. The family on the other hand, are not bound to keep the child any longer than they choose.

Under this new agreement a number of our boys and girls are already placed out, and seem to appreciate the fact that they are not bound, while at the same time, the authority and supervision of the official visitor is respected and acceptable. It is the duty of the visitor to cultivate the confidence and affection of the children under his care so that they may learn to look to him as their special friend, protector and counselor, and the only way by which this confidence and affection can be gained, is by the visitor, having love and affection to give in return, although many of these poor children are wayward and difficult to manage, some being almost incorrigible,

yet, others very readily respond to kindness and affection, and are quite capable of sincere and warm attachment to their benefactors. So that with some dark clouds of discouragement in the work, there are also some golden rays of beatitude.

It continues to be a matter of regret that almost the only available openings in life for poor boys are among farmers, where they cannot expect to rise above the condition of farm laborers. I have a number of bright boys on my visiting list placed out with farmers who would make good mechanics if any way could be opened for them to learn trades. It seems that the growing difficulty in having boys taught mechanical trades, together with the crowding of imported labor in American work-shops makes the establishment, by the State, of mechanical training schools a desideratum. It would greatly improve public morality, and elevate the national character to a higher standard if ample facilities were provided for American boys to learn trades. As for the girls, they do better, being always in demand for domestic help, they can command better wages, with easier work.

We think we have done a good work or began a good work, of reform in the case of the Philadelphia children by relieving them from the hardship and stigma attaching to the life of the bound child; but more remains to be done, the old indentures, as also our new agreement gives the child three months schooling each year, only three months; although some families, as in the case of children adopted as their own, send them to school during the entire session, and others liberally do more than the contract calls for, by sending them for four or five months, yet not a few seem to regard the time given to the child at school as a loss to themselves. Of course many families look on the whole question of taking children as one of profit and loss, and while it is necessary to exercise vigilance in order that the child may be treated with justice and kindness, we must not expect any great exuberance of generosity if it involves the outlay of money. As a rule if the child is worth his room in the family circle he will be welcome to stay, but if he prove troublesome and unprofitable they do not want to keep him.

To come back to the school question, three months schooling in the year is not sufficient. This is an age of invention and progress, of steam power, electric light and so on. The forces of nature are being captured and utilized for the benefit of mankind. In the face of all that is being done by improved methods to elevate the standard of our civilization, must we still persist in doling out education to the poor children of the State by the miserable old tallow-dip light of

our great-grand fathers. Surely that might be called candle end economy.

I am very well aware that this may jar somewhat harshly against the ideas of political economy, generally considered as proper and wise in the guardianship of the poor. More time at school and better education would mean increased expenditure, and of course, a perceptible increase in the tax rate, which would be distasteful to the tax-payers and therefore impolitic. But just here I remember an old proverb which would seem to be peculiarly applicable, "There is that scattereth and yet increaseth, and there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty." The members of the State legislature who are present will kindly excuse this illustration of a principle of political economy with which they are, no doubt, perfectly familiar, I only meant to apply the maxim as an inspired guide in legislation touching the poor children of the State. On behalf of these children I ask for better opportunities of education.

*The President:* The Convention would be pleased to hear from Mrs. Darrah, of the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania :

#### REPORT OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.

About the first of January, 1889, some of the ladies of Western Pennsylvania, believing that the friendless children of the western part of the State should be committed to the care of the women of that section, applied for and received a charter for the Children's Aid Society, of Western Pennsylvania.

This document gives them authority to organize societies in twenty-seven western counties and through them co-operate with the Poor Directors of said counties in the care of the needy little ones of Western Pennsylvania.

A state appropriation was granted, and the first payment of the same received in the month of June. Owing to the large amount of work done by the Society for Johnstown, (a report of which accompanies this) and the consequent absence of many of our workers, during the summer months, the work of organizing has of necessity been delayed.

At this date the following societies are auxiliary and are expected to send monthly reports to our Executive Committee. Allegheny, Armstrong, Butler, Clarion, Jefferson and Washington. Three of which report work done as follows :

REPORT OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF ALLEGHENY COUNTY FOR YEAR  
ENDING OCTOBER 1ST, 1889.

Number of children placed in Society's care for year ending October 1st, 1889.....	75
Received from County Poor Board.....	21
"    "    Allegheny City .....	3
"    "    other Counties.....	1
"    "    other sources.....	50
Returned to friends.....	26
Placed in permanent homes.....	23
In hospitals for temporary treatment.....	8
Died.....	12
Women with children placed in situations.....	2
Calls received at office.....	1682
Calls made in interest of Society.....	892
Children visited personally.....	350
Letters received in the interest of the work.....	714
Letters sent (this does not include the correspondence of the State or County Secretaries).....	1178
New garments received for use of children.....	203
New shoes.....pairs,	20
New garments distributed.....	252
Partly worn garments received.....	202
Partly worn shoes.....pairs,	6
Worn garments distributed.....	231
New shoes distributed.....pairs,	40

TREASURER'S REPORT.

Money received by Children's Aid Society of Allegheny County, from October 1st, 1888, to October 1st, 1889.....	\$2,524 56
Disbursements.....	2,574 92

MRS. J. T. McCANCE,

*Treasurer.*

Number of children under care of Butler County Society.....	15
Received from Directors of the Poor.....	2
Placed in private homes.....	14
Returned to friends.....	2
In Institution.....	1
Died.....	1
Children's visits.....	21

Jefferson County only recently organized. Reports eight children under their care.

REPORT OF JOHNSTOWN WORK.

On May 31st, 1889, the most disastrous flood in the destruction of life and property that ever happened among English speaking people occurred in the Conemaugh Valley of Pennsylvania.



The territory which suffered was a large part of Cambria County, embracing several small towns and villages; but the disaster has been known as the "Johnstown Flood" because that town, by reason of its natural location and the large number of its inhabitants, suffered most severely.

On June 2d, three members of your executive committee held an informal meeting and decided to report at once to the Pittsburgh Relief Committee, and offer to take care of all children who were rendered homeless by this terrible catastrophe. We all published the same offer in all the Pittsburgh papers, and telegraphed the same to Jas. B. Scott, dictator at Johnstown. On Monday your Secretary accompanied by Mr. W. Price and Mr. C. S. Shoemaker, succeeded under great difficulties in getting to Johnstown to make arrangements, if possible, for the establishing of headquarters for the care of helpless women and children. That this was considered necessary and advisable is demonstrated by the fact that a telegram was received about one hour after the party had started, from Adjutant General Hastings asking your Secretary to come up at once to make arrangements for care of children. Your Secretary and friends had an interview with Mr. Moxham (at the time Chairman of the Johnstown Citizens' Committee) who when he had learned their errand of mercy, strongly urged immediate action on the part of the Society.

After a busy day spent among the saddest scenes of their lives, hunting children through the rain and mud, with not a spot or place in which a moment's rest or a bite of food could be taken, your pioneer party returned to Pittsburgh, arriving about one o'clock, A. M., on Tuesday, June 3d.

The few days that followed were busy ones for the ladies of the State Executive Committee of Allegheny County Society. Meetings were held and arrangements made so that on Saturday, June 7th, Mrs. Alston, Miss Wilcox, Mrs. Hutchings, Miss Lysle, Mrs. Orr and Misses Price, Dunlevy and Caldwell, each one provided with a lunch basket, blanket, pillow, waterproof, etc. and a goodly store of quinine, soft rags for wounds, court-plaster and other simple remedies, at that time worth almost their weight in gold to the suffering people, arrived in Johnstown to represent the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania. The first question to be answered was "where shall we find a room." After weary hours of search, through the kindness of Miss H. A. Duncan, Mr. Bedine and Judge Flannigan generously gave your Committee the use, rent free, of their home which they had left for the time being, as the water had only reached

the ceiling of the first floor, the second story was in excellent condition and admirably adapted for the purpose, one room being used as an office, a second for a dining room and kitchen and the attic for sleeping purposes. For nineteen days the work was carried on by the ladies mentioned and others who went up by relays, one party relieving another from time to time; but as the work grew, it soon became evident that an actuary must be secured, who could give her whole time to the work, assisted as much as possible by volunteer service. Miss Duncan, already mentioned, a resident of the town, well known and respected, was engaged as our representative at a salary of \$10 per week and board. At that time there was no place in the town where a meal or a night's lodging could be had. Believing hospitality to be a Christian virtue, we determined to keep our "latch-string out" so that our attic often gave shelter to eight or ten of the best ladies in the State, not only our own workers, but representatives of all other Christian Societies who came to Johnstown to do what they could in various ways for their afflicted brethren; while down stairs, beds of all kinds were improvised for gentlemen, who came with the same object in view, ministers, doctors, lawyers and others, in fact this was no small part of our work, as about 1,500 meals were cheerfully given to all who came within our bounds. We regret that no record was kept of the friends lodged. When you remember that we had no conveniences for house-keeping for several weeks, until a stove was placed in the kitchen down stairs by our episcopal brethren, who kindly gave us the use of it, that nearly all the eatables for the first three weeks were sent up from Pittsburgh and Allegheny, that domestic help could not be had at any price, you will have some faint idea of the arduous work performed by our faithful actuary and the ladies who volunteered their assistance.

The office work was varied in character, consisting in receiving and answering applications from about two hundred persons desiring children, from Maine to San Francisco. In hunting up and caring for seventy-one children, some of these were only in our custody for a few days till their relatives were found, and some we have yet in our care; securing transportation for seventy-five persons to all parts of the country; giving clothing, new and partly worn, to four hundred and ninety-one families (number of garments not counted); cots and bedding and other furniture to twenty-five families; distributing fruit, jellies, etc. to hundreds of sick ones, no record having been kept of the visits made, making inquiries and searching for lost friends; writing letters of thanks for valuable aid and contributions and in

numberless other ways doing all that could be done to relieve the immediate wants and necessities of the terribly stricken people.

We wish to tender our public and heartfelt thanks to all who have rendered us valuable aid, and those who have sent us donations of all kinds, making it possible for us to render prompt assistance to all classes.

When we opened the Johnstown office we had not one dollar of money, but see how our faith in our Master was verified, money being sent to us from all sources, amounting to \$856.00 from States and counties and individuals, including a donation from California. Miss Duncan, feeling that she needed a rest from the continual strain of the work which she had so faithfully performed, the last three weeks of our stay in Johnstown our office was in the efficient care of Mrs. J. C. Davis, another resident of the place who had lost all her property in the flood. She was most capable and untiring in her devotion to our cause, and your ex-committee has made an arrangement with her, by which she gives the use of a room in her house (when it shall be finished) for the reception and storing of goods and her personal attention to all applications for aid, which she will report to us until the work shall seem to demand the opening of an office. It is our judgment that there will be much aid needed during the winter and it is our intention to prosecute the work to the full extent of our ability.

Our Society wishes to tender public acknowledgment of thanks to our State and county superintendents of public schools, who at our request, consented to endorse all certificates held by teachers who suffered by the flood, without an examination, which action was promptly followed by the city superintendent of Johnstown public schools. We have also set aside \$100 for the purchase of books for school children, thus making it possible for them to attend the schools recently opened.

Respectfully yours, submitted,

MRS. H. C. CAMPBELL,

*Secretary.*

*Mr. Guy, (Allegheny):* We consider the Children's Aid Society of Allegheny County a great auxiliary. They take charge of our children and get them homes; that is a great relief to us. When they get them homes we know they are in good hands.

*Mrs. Passmore, of the Chester County Children's Aid Society,* read the report of the society, as follows:



A retrospective view of the past year's work of the Chester County Aid Society stimulates the prospect for the future as it has been one of Christian benevolence. At the present time we have recorded one hundred and twelve county wards, and sixty-two in the supplementary work, forty-two of this number are indentured.

We are convinced that the supplementary branch of our work is a means of preventing many from drifting to the "County Home," not alone the children, but those beyond the years of childhood have been warmed, fed, clothed and sheltered, and placed in homes where opportunities are offered for leading lives of honest independence.

Meetings of the Board of Managers continue to be held quarterly, when detailed reports of the children under care from each locality are presented, and the general work of the society considered. Faith in the "family plan" continues, whilst we recognize the fact, that caretakers in order to rear these homeless creatures properly, must possess administrative ability, rare judgment, sympathy, broad yet prudent, and boundless patience.

The ancient adage, "as the twig is bent the tree inclines," is again and again verified. It has been proven environment was more potent than hereditary in affecting the moral development of a child, these unfortunates grow stronger for life's tasks.

In this round of humane duty, encouragements and discouragement alike confront us, all type of character presents itself, and to adjust each case requires time, toil and sacrifice, and with all, now and then incorrigible cases develop, and there seems to be no private home in which we would desire to place such under any circumstances, and in fact, few persons willing to take them even temporarily. Any suggestions this Convention would deem proper to make relative thereto, would be most kindly received by our Aid Society. We gratefully acknowledge our indebtedness to the Board of Directors of the Poor, their words of encouragement and ready sympathy have been sources of strength. The steward and matron of the home are interested in our work. Their willing minds and tender hearts exert an influence over these children while under their supervision, the impress of which long remains. Their constant efforts to lighten our labor, deserve our heartfelt thanks.

The continued devotion of our members to the work indicates a living faith that is required, and we must place our hard toil and



hard thinking at this door of humanity and thus realize "As our day is so shall our strength be."

On behalf the Society,

ELIZABETH B. PASSMORE,

*President.*

LYDIA B. WALTON,

*Secretary.*

*The President:* The Convention will be pleased to hear from Mrs. Wilson, Actuary of the Children's Aid Society of Philadelphia.

*Mrs. Wilson:* Would it not be wise at this time, when a commission is considering the revision of the poor laws of the State, to bring up for discussion at this meeting the subject of indenturing children? Originally, as the custom did in the old apprenticeship system, when children were bound out to a master for the purpose of learning trades, there does not seem any just or good reason for its continuance, now that the old days as well as the old ways have passed away. Should we not give dependent children in the new days a better start in life than an indenture gives them? Would not the increased expenditure incurred by boarding them longer return to us in the form of decreased expenditures for police, prisons and almshouses, and should we not ask ourselves, are we doing the best that we can afford to do for the dependent children of this Commonwealth by giving them only three months' schooling in a year, and selling their services the remaining nine months to pay for their board and clothing?

*The President:* The Convention would be pleased to hear from Dr. Walk, of Philadelphia, on the question of indentured children.

*Dr. Walk, (Philadelphia):* I believe that the difficulties which are developed in the indenturing of children are very great, but are not inherent in the system, but are possibly due to a lack of proper supervision such as is exercised by Mr. Milliken and his able assistant, Mrs. Wilson. No system, however thorough, will work unless you have a good man or woman back of it. The indenturing of a child is intended to protect not only him, but his master as well.

*Mr. Milliken*, (Philadelphia): I would rather hear an expression of opinion from the ladies and gentlemen representing the different sections on the subject of indenturing children. I am of the opinion that boys should be apprenticed to learn trades such as blacksmiths, carpenters, etc., and the girls could become dressmakers and other avocations of life rather than servants. The idea of indenturing or binding out system of the poor is entirely defective; it reminds one of slavery. I hold no boy should be indentured to a farmer, while I appreciate the farmer very highly.

*Mr. Snyder*, (Philadelphia): I was a farmer's boy and would always take the farmer's part and protect him, and if the farmer's boy is properly raised and educated, as he should be, during his term of servanthip, would certainly make his mark and also earn as good wages as a skilled mechanic eventually. That there was not as many places offered the farmer to spend his money, as the mechanic, and that at the end, a good farm hand would save more than the mechanic.

*The President*: The next topic on our programme is, "What the Commonwealth has done for the care of the Insane," by Hon. Lewis Pughe, and which we would now be pleased to listen to.

Lewis Pughe, of Scranton, then offered the following remarks, subject: "What the State has done for the insane."—

Hon. William P. Letchworth, President of the New York State Board of Charities, in a recent work on the "History of the Insane Hospitals in Europe," says: "In this age of high pressure living, there is perhaps no subject of more general interest than that of insanity, in its relation to the State. No reflecting mind can be indifferent to the question of making proper public provision for the treatment and care of those afflicted with an insidious disease, from which no measure of intellectual, of physical strength, or worldly prosperity affords any certain immunity; a disease which, prone to feed on excitement, finally transforms the noblest faculties of our race into a wreck so appalling that in its contemplation human intelligence becomes bewildered and dismayed."

So great a revolution has taken place in the treatment of the insane within the past generation, that we can scarcely realize that a hundred years have not yet elapsed since persons of unsound mind

were treated worse than wild beasts, heavily manacled in cells and dungeons, the suffocating and poisonous atmosphere of which not only prevented cure, but hastened death.

A little earlier, in some cases, the insane were exhibited in cages to the public at fixed rates, and were irritated and tormented to gratify a morbid and vulgar curiosity. As a result of this treatment many who were originally not beyond hope of recovery became permanently blighted and deranged, and those who were not deemed dangerous to the public safety were left to roam about the country in a neglected and pitiable condition.

It is difficult to conceive that a century has not passed since the humane and herculean labors of Pinel, a distinguished French physician, who had been a diligent student of the authorities on diseases of the mind, and in his earlier years had been appointed by the French Government to report on the condition of the asylums at Paris. On assuming the oversight of Beceta, the insane hospital of Paris, he found fifty-three men languishing in chains, manacled to the cold stone floors. Some of the patients had been in that condition many years. They were regarded by the authorities as dangerous and even desperate characters; but the sight of these men grown gray and decrepit, as the result of prolonged torture, made a different and deep impression on the humane Doctor Pinel. He was determined to try to introduce some new methods for the amelioration of the terrible condition of these victims of a brutal and inhuman treatment. He addressed appeal after appeal to the Commune, craving power to release them, without delay. At last the authorities unwillingly yielded to the importunity of the physician. The Commune appointed an official to accompany the doctor and watch his experiments, expecting he would be denuded and killed by the maniacs. The officer no sooner caught sight of the chained maniacs than he excitedly exclaimed: "Ah, now citizen, art thou mad thyself to desire to unchain such animals?"

The doctor was not to be deterred, however, from carrying out his benevolent design, and did not rest satisfied until all the fifty-three patients had been gradually liberated from their chains. Singular as it may appear, the man who had been considered the most dangerous and who had survived forty years of this barbarous treatment was afterwards known as the faithful and devoted servant of the humane doctor. Perhaps there is no more touching event in history than that of this kind-hearted, courageous and wise physician removing the chains and manacles from the bodies and limbs of the ill-fated inmates of this place of horrors. The monstrous fallacy of



cruel treatment once fully exposed, the insane came to be looked upon as unfortunate human beings, stricken with a terrible disease, and, like other sick persons, requiring every aid which science, medical skill and benevolent sympathy could provide, with a view to relieve them, or cure and restore them to their homes and society.

The initial point in hospital treatment of the insane in this State was in 1750, when there was established in the "Province of Pennsylvania," a small hospital to be located in Philadelphia, in which the principle of treating the patients as "sick persons" was recognized. An Act incorporating it, passed the Provincial Assembly in 1751. It was entitled "An Act to encourage the establishing of a hospital for the relief of the sick poor, and for the reception and care of lunatics." So the grand old city of Philadelphia has the honor of having the first hospital for the indigent insane in the United States. This small institution began in what had been a private dwelling; the services of a physician were gratuitous, and the medicine was given gratis.

In the dawn of the present century there was born among the granite hills of New Hampshire, one who was destined to be a potent power in helping to bring about the greatest reform of the present century, by awakening and stimulating almost a national interest in providing hospitals and caring for the indigent insane in prisons and almshouses; one who devoted the best energies of her womanhood to plead for and aid this unfortunate class. That noble philanthropist was Miss Dorothea Dix. She took up the work with a conscientious conviction that she was directed by God to do so, and the highest and most persistent force of her noble mind, and richly endowed nature, was controlled by that subtle, silent force, that every great moral and social reformer possesses—*Faith*. In her mission she went to nearly every State east of the Rocky Mountains, visiting the prisons and almshouses. She also visited Europe to study the social condition of the dependent classes there.

Armed with the vast array of facts she had collected with regard to the neglected condition of the insane, and the cruelties, so debasing and brutal, to which they were subjected, she went to the capitals of many States, appealed to the Legislatures to adopt measures for the relief and care of the unfortunate insane. She was a woman of fine presence, had a loving, winning face, and a keen piercing eye, and was gifted with a rare eloquence and sublime earnestness of soul that was convincing upon her audience, and enlisted their sympathy in the cause she plead for.



She was in the main influential in securing the establishment of insane hospitals, in Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, North Carolina, Alabama, Illinois, Indiana, and other States. In 1848, she went to Washington and presented petitions to Congress, and was given the privilege to address Senators and Representatives in pleading the cause of humanity so dear to her heart. In 1850, as a result of her efforts, Congress passed an Act appropriating ten million acres of the public lands, to be distributed to the several States, for the relief of the indigent insane. The bill was vetoed by the President, Franklin Pierce.

Then let us look at what Miss Dix accomplished abroad. One incident in connection with her trip is notable. It was when she visited Scotland, during her tour through the several kingdoms of Europe. She was greatly shocked at the condition in which she found the poor insane in Scotland, and much disturbed because of the difficulties she encountered in getting desired information. Finally she was refused admission to an asylum that she desired to visit at night, in order to learn of peculiar abuses that she believed were hidden from the public. She applied to a high official in Edinburgh, for the privilege denied her by those in charge of the institution. Being again refused she proceeded at once to London and laid before the Premier and Home Secretary the startling facts that she had collected respecting the sad condition of the insane in Scotland, notwithstanding the sturdy opposition made by her conservative opponents. The result of her mission was the appointment, by the English Parliament on the 3d of April, 1855, of the famous Royal Commission, "to inquire into the condition of lunatic asylums in Scotland, and the existing state of the law in that country in reference to lunatics in lunatic asylums." The feeling that was aroused led to very earnest work on the part of the Commission, who were engaged two years in making investigations and preparing their report. This brought to light the imperfections of existing laws, exposed the cruelties to which the insane were subjected, and opened the way for the excellent lunacy laws and system of management of insane asylums which Scotland now enjoys.

In these successes we get a glimpse of the extraordinary force, work and faith of Miss Dix. One writer has said: "Some souls live in this age, as prophecies of what it shall become, and the faith force that made Miss Dix always victorious seems to be the true analysis of her wonderful powers." Miss Dix entered into rest about two years ago, after a life of toil and sacrifice for the poor, neglected, suffering insane.

A few years prior to 1868 a wail of indignation came to the ears of our governor and legislators with regard to the cruelties and ill-treatment practised on the dependent insane housed in almshouses throughout the State, that prompted the Assembly of 1869 to pass an Act establishing a Board of Public Charities. The Act gave the Board power to visit prisons, hospitals, almshouses and all institutions that received aid from the State. The services of the Board were gratuitous, only the Secretary receiving compensation. They did good work, introducing methods that tended to ameliorate the condition of the dependent classes.

Insanity increased so much that in 1883 the legislature passed an Act supplemental to that creating the Board of Public Charities—a lunacy law, relative to the supervision and control of hospitals or houses in which the insane were placed for treatment or detention. Three members were added to the Board, one a practising physician of ten years' experience, and one a lawyer of ten years' standing. The Board were then required to appoint five members on the Lunacy Committee, the two professional men to be among them. The Committee had power to appoint a Secretary at a salary of \$3,000. Section 4 of the Act reads as follows: "The Committee on Lunacy herein provided for shall examine for themselves, or through their Secretary, and report annually to the Board on or before the first of November, into the condition of the insane in this State and the management and conduct of the hospitals, public and private, almshouses and all other places in which insane are kept for care and detention; and it shall be the duty of the officers and others respectively in charge thereof to give such Committee and their Secretary, at all times, free access to the insane and full information concerning them and their treatment therein."

This was a movement in the right direction; it was the bow of promise, radiant with love, for the amelioration of the condition of the insane, especially in the almshouses. The Committee have accomplished wonders to my personal knowledge and no doubt to yours. They and their worthy Secretary, Dr. A. J. Ourt, have been thorough in their investigations. As a result of their labors much has been accomplished to improve the methods of caring for the pauper insane both in medical treatment and sanitation.

In the statement of "what the State has done for the Insane," I shall not mention the institutions that care for them without State aid, such as The Pennsylvania Hospital, Philadelphia Hospital, Blockley, Friend Asylum for the Insane, Philadelphia; Burn Brae,

Clifton Heights, Delaware County; Allegheny, Pittsburgh, Lancaster, Hillside Home, Lackawanna County, and many other hospitals attached to poor houses.

Miss Dix made her special plea to our Legislature in 1845, on the importance of the State erecting a hospital. Two years afterwards the corner-stone of the Harrisburg Asylum was laid by Gov. Johnson. The Asylum was not completed until October 1st, 1851.

#### HARRISBURG ASYLUM.

The first patient was admitted on the 15th of October, 1851. Since that date there have been admitted to September 30th, 1888, 6,920 patients, of whom there were restored 1,174. Improved 1,229, stationary 1,733, died 1,119, leaving in the hospital 665.

#### DANVILLE ASYLUM.

Was opened November 6th, 1872. From the reception of the first patient there have been admitted to the close of 1888, 2,977. Of that number 448 have been restored. Improved 476, stationary 722, died 466, leaving in the hospital 865.

#### DIXMONT HOSPITAL.

Located at Pittsburgh. Although under private management it is practically a State institution. From 1861 to the 30th of last November 5,738 patients were admitted. Improved 1,511, restored 1,617, died 1,235, remaining in the hospital 636.

#### NORRISTOWN ASYLUM.

Ground for this Asylum was broken March 31st, 1878. The first patient was admitted July 12th, 1880, from which time to the close of last year, there have been admitted for treatment 4,301, restored 755, improved 531, stationary 286, died 1,003, leaving a population of 1,726.

#### WARREN ASYLUM.

Was first opened for patients December 5th, 1880, from which date to the close of last year there have been admitted 1,751, restored 241, improved 303, stationary 173, died 374, leaving in the hospital 680.

To sum up the total admissions to the State Hospitals since the first admission to the Harrisburg Hospital, October 15th, 1851, to the close of the year, are as follows :

Admissions.....	20,687
Restored.....	4,318
Improved.....	4,800
Stationary....	2,429
Died.....	4,504
In Hospitals.....	5,568



Twice the Supreme Court has rendered formal decisions that Pennsylvania is a Christian Commonwealth; but, important and authoritative as are such judicial utterances, far more convincing than a thousand such decisions are the splendid evidences of a Christian spirit seen in Pennsylvania's noble provision for the poor, her unfortunate, and insane.

And when this work is considered in its character, its spirit, its magnitude and its far-reaching results, we may well ask "Is not this after all the chief, the crowning glory of our commonwealth?" We know that the soldier and the enthusiastic student of military history will feel pride in the fact that when, in the dark days of the Rebellion, the fearful tide of war rolled northward, it broke in fury against the hills of Gettysburg, only to recoil in defeat and shame. He will remind us that on this memorable and bloody field, with a son of Pennsylvania in command, was fought one of the most momentous battles of history, as well as the pivotal battle of that long and terrible struggle, on whose final issue hung the fate of this great republic, and in which struggle, beyond the interests of a single nation, the great cause of human liberty had a high concern.

Now it would seem glory enough for our State that such an achievement was accomplished within her borders. But we remember that the very name of our Commonwealth points us back to its great-hearted and noble founder, William Penn, whose just and humane policy towards the aboriginal inhabitants, whom he found in possession of the forests and valleys, was designed to avert war, and by any and every means to compass peace. It is in accord with the spirit and genius of that magnanimous and heroic soul, the peaceful and peace-loving Penn, who in the morning twilight of our history, laid the foundation of this great Keystone State, that we aspire to the victories of peace rather than those of war.

Splendid as has been our military achievement, we must ever regard as of higher value, our industrial and commercial developments, and our educational enterprises, with their beneficent effects upon social and domestic life. But higher than all these, and approaching more truly the spirit of her great founder, interpreting more faithfully her origin, and fulfilling more nearly her proposed destiny, are our Commonwealth's noble works of charity and Christian benevolence, chief among which are her places of refuge for the insane. Not yonder on Culp's Hill, and Round Top, and Seminary Ridge are the noblest monuments, though these we would not for a moment disparage; but at Harrisburg, Danville, Norristown, Warren and Dixmont, in the institutions there provided for the dependent insane, are found the



true memorials of Pennsylvania's greatness and of her loftiest, most God-like achievements. [Applause.]

*Mr. Biddle:* Inasmuch as the census of 1880 does not contain in book or statement the expense of maintaining and supporting the poor in the United States, I would offer the following resolution and ask its adoption:

*Resolved.* That this Association do earnestly represent to Hon. Robert P. Porter, Superintendent of the United States Census, the importance of obtaining in the coming decennial census, such suitable information in relation to the amount of taxes levied in the States for the relief and maintenance of the poor, and in support of State charities, the number of paupers dependent upon the public for support, the nature and character and number of charitable institutions supported by the State, &c., as will afford a means of ascertaining the relative values of different State charitable systems.

On motion, it was agreed to.

*The President:* The next topic on our programme is "The History of our Association and the benefits resulting from its organization," by R. D. McGonnigle.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* The history I have prepared is not a very long one, but simply puts the dates of the various meetings in their proper order, and the work that in my judgment the Association has done, and in this connection permit me to state that this meeting presents a very different appearance to the first meeting we ever held, (and which was held in this same city—Altoona). At that meeting there were no ladies present whatever; the number of ladies present to-day seems to be equal to that of gentlemen. In connection with the work we are doing, we have now working with us the Children's Aid Society in the various parts of the State, the Legislative Committee of State Charities and Corrections, the Board of Public Charities, and a Commission appointed to codify and revise the Poor Laws of the State. The mere matter of bringing together and to have working in harmony these various organizations, etc., is evidence to me that our work has not been in vain, and that we are gathering strength year by year. To have the assistance of the Children's Aid Society throughout the State working in harmony with us, relieves us of what we considered in the early days of our history, one of

the most serious questions, "What shall we do with our children?"

The first meeting was held January 19th, 1876, at Altoona; the second meeting occurred September 19th, of the same year, at Lancaster, and since that time, we have held annual meetings; the third meeting was held at Lockhaven, October 16th, 1877; the fourth meeting at Pittsburgh, October 19th, 1878; the fifth meeting at Scranton, September 16th, 1879; the sixth meeting at Harrisburg, September 7th, 1880; the seventh meeting at Erie, September 21st, 1881; the eighth meeting at Somerset, September 19th, 1882; the ninth meeting at Philadelphia, October 9th, 1883; the tenth meeting at Greensburg, October 7th, 1884; the eleventh meeting at Philadelphia, October 14th, 1885; the twelfth meeting at Scranton, October 13th, 1886; the thirteenth meeting at Gettysburg, October 18th, 1887; the fourteenth meeting at Uniontown, October 16th, 1888, and we are now holding our fifteenth annual meeting at Altoona.

The first meeting of this Association was rather informal, and had been called together by a circular issued by Mr. D. C. Hultz, then Superintendent of the Allegheny County Home, and the writer, who was then Secretary of the Allegheny City Poor Directors. During that year (1876) there was a general complaint from the various almshouses in regard to the army of tramps that infested the State, and the meeting was called with a view to preparing some legislation to meet the case, and what is known as the "Tramp Act of 1876" was prepared, and the passage of it by the Legislature was due very largely to the influences of this meeting.

The meeting at Lancaster, was addressed by Prof. J. P. Wickersham, then State Superintendent of Public Schools, and Mr. Goodale, Superintendent of the Poor of Orange County, New York, and the Hon. F. P. Sanborn, Secretary of the State Board of Charities of Mass. This meeting was quite largely attended, and the interest manifested was considerably more than at the Altoona meeting.

The next meeting was held at Lockhaven; the attendance was quite large, and we had the pleasure of receiving delegates from several districts, that heretofore had not attended the meetings. At this meeting a Committee was appointed with a view of revising the Poor Laws.

The next meeting was held at Pittsburgh; the attendance was larger than any previous meeting. We had the pleasure of having with us, Mr. Lyman P. Alden, Superintendent of the State Public School of Michigan. Mr. Alden explained the operations of this

school, which was then comparatively new, and the only school of the kind in the country.

The next meeting was held at Harrisburg, and was attended by Messrs. Wayland and Sypher, representing the Charity Organizing Society, of Philadelphia, and from them we learned very much that was interest in the matter of organizing charity and caring for the poor in a systematic manner. At this meeting, a constitution was adopted, under which we have operated ever since.

At the Somerset meeting, we had the pleasure of having with us Mrs. E. A. Puncheon, representing the Children's Aid Society of Philadelphia. Mrs. Puncheon explained the object of the Children's Aid Society, and asked our enlistment in the work, which was freely given. The principal business of the Somerset meeting was the appointment of a Committee to procure legislation providing for the removal of children from almshouses, and to have the price of boarding of insane patients at the State Hospitals reduced to \$2.00 per week, and at the next meeting of the Legislature, we had the pleasure of having such legislation passed.

At the Philadelphia meeting the attendance was large, and we had the hearty co-operation of the Society for Organizing Charity, and the visits to the several institutions, especially the School for Feeble-Minded Children, at Elwyn, were very much enjoyed, and I think the members went home from Philadelphia feeling more than ever the importance of their work.

At Scranton, we had an exhibition of lip reading, the new system of teaching deaf mutes; this was the first time the work of deaf mutes had been presented to our Association.

At Gettysburg, we had an address from Doctor Morton, President Commission of Lunacy, in which he explained the position of their Commission in taking care of the insane, which was something interesting.

At the last meeting at Uniontown, a Committee on Legislation was appointed to secure the appointment of a Commission to revise the Poor Laws, which I am pleased to say has been secured, and this Commission is present with us to-day.

I have thus hurriedly sketched the work of our Association since its first meeting; to have gone more fully into details would have required much more time for preparation.

Previous to the meeting of 1876, there was no personal acquaintance with the authorities of the almshouses over the State, while to-day, the various counties and districts over the State are comparing with each other as to the best methods of management, etc., and



the entire almshouse management throughout the State has been very much improved and advanced during the last twelve years, and much of this can be attributed to the annual meetings, and the friendly comparisons between the various officials throughout the State.

This Association has been the means of securing legislation, which otherwise, I think, could not have been attained, notably: the Act prohibiting the detention of children in almshouses over two years of age: Some years ago, legislation of this kind would have been considered impossible; all the Legislature wanted was the fact that such legislation was required, and when it was asked for by this Association, it was granted. The passage of this "Children's Law" was one of the most advanced steps taken by our Legislature; how well it has worked out in practice, you all know, it will be the means of decreasing the constantly growing class of dependents, and while its effect may not now be so noticeable, it will be in a few years. Similar legislation has since been adopted in other States.

When our Association first met, a complaint was made, that the charges of the State Hospitals for boarding insane, were so exorbitant, that they had become a burden, and at that time the price paid by the various poor districts for the boarding of an insane person in the hospital, per week, was alone \$3.50, including clothing; this amount being paid by the district in addition to the general appropriation of the State to the various hospitals. Through our efforts, legislation was secured in 1883, limiting the price to be charged by the various hospitals for the entire care of an insane person to \$4, two of which was to be paid by the State and two by the Poor District; since that time one or two of the hospitals have voluntarily reduced the price to \$1.50 and \$1.75 per week. The effect of the law has been very far-reaching and satisfactory; the saving to the various poor districts has been a large one as you all know, and instead of the almshouses being crowded with insane patients as they were formerly, the hospitals are now crowded. This change has resulted in many ways to the advantage of all persons concerned; in the first place it has been the means of saving money to the various poor districts; in the second place, it affords the patients the benefit of hospital care and treatment, which heretofore they had been deprived of, and again it has brought about a better understanding between the various hospitals and poor authorities throughout the State. I think I am justified in saying in this connection, that this state of affairs could not have been brought about by any other means than that of this Association. *This reduction we have secured in the*



*boarding of the insane, saves more to the poor districts of the State in one year than the whole expense that has been incurred on account of our fifteen annual meetings, and this being true it cannot be said that we have met in vain and our efforts fruitless.*

During all our meetings, we have discussed the desirability of having a revision of the poor laws, and while we attempted it previously, we were not strong enough to secure what was desired until our last meeting, when we plainly stated what the condition of affairs was and what was needed, and the Legislature authorized the appointment of a commission to revise the laws for the relief, care and maintenance of the poor, and the Commission are with us to-day for the purpose of having our views on this important subject.

When you come to consider the work of this Association outside of the legislation we have secured, the field is so broad that it is almost incalculable, and I doubt if the members ever realize just how strong their position is, and what good work they can bring about. A gentleman largely interested in charitable work, and who has a world-wide reputation, once said to me, "The members of your Association, who assemble from year to year, are better fitted to work out social problems, and devise ways and means for the relief of the dependent classes, than any set of men he had ever met; for the reason that the men who assemble here at your meetings, are the men who are thrown every day with the dependent classes, and they do not have to take what somebody else says should be done to better their condition, *they know themselves what is required to be done because they see it in their every day work.*"

There are a large number of persons who are anxious and willing to devote both their time and money ameliorating the sufferings of the dependent classes, but not having any practical experience, have to work somewhat in the dark and rely entirely on what someone else tells them should be done; in our case we do not require to be told what to do, we generally know ourselves what is necessary, and these annual meetings is where we make known what we think is required. We have now, working in harmony with us, the Children's Aid Society, and all its auxiliary or county societies, the Society for Organizing Charity, and the Board of Public Charities, and the work of our Association has extended far beyond the limits of the State; copies of the proceedings of our annual meetings are to be found in the libraries of the prominent charity associations and boards of public charities, and while we have done considerable work, there is still an untold amount left undone, and our efforts should be to enlist the proper authorities of all the poor districts to join us. We have

now represented a very large proportion of all the poor districts in the State, but we should have them all, and make our influence so felt, not only throughout this State, but the entire United States, we will be regarded and quoted as authority on any matters pertaining to pauperism or dependency. [Applause.]

*The President:* The hour of twelve having arrived, after carrying out the morning session, a motion will be in order to adjourn until eight o'clock this evening.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* Arrangements have been made to take the Association to the Blair County Almshouse this afternoon at 2 o'clock, returning at 5.30.

On motion, it was decided to adjourn, to meet at the Almshouse.

About one hundred members of the Association and a large number of the citizens of Altoona visited the almshouse that afternoon, as per arrangements. The visitors were received by Mr. Philip Young (steward) and wife, and various parts of the institution visited, and a bountiful lunch was served. There was no formal session held, and the visitors returned to Altoona at 5.30.

## EVENING SESSION.

The Convention assembled at 8 o'clock, and opened with prayer by Mr. Sloan, of Washington County.

*The President:* A conference of the Children's Aid Society, of Pennsylvania, will hold its first session to-morrow morning at ten o'clock, in the First Lutheran Church, in this city. All are cordially invited.

I desire at this time to State to the Convention, that we have with us this evening a very distinguished lady; one of those who are interested in the welfare and care of unfortunate children, like to them as would be their mother. I have the pleasure of introducing to this Convention, Mrs. Leslie, the mother of the organization of the Children's Aid Society.

*Mrs. Leslie:* I certainly cannot claim to be the mother of the society when I consider the work that has been done by all my colleagues, I have had such a feeble share myself.

*The President:* During the session to-day, we did not hear reports from all the Children's Aid Societies, and will be pleased to hear this evening from any that did not report this morning.

*Mrs. Leslie:*

### THE FAMILY SYSTEM, A CURE FOR PAUPERISM.

I am requested to speak to you this evening on "The Family System, a Cure for Pauperism." This idea, in which our Children's Aid Society fully believe, and which is confirmed to our intellects and our hearts, by the practice and experience of nearly ten years is no new one, but nearly as old as the world. For when Old Time was younger, and populations were not crowded as in modern cities, and small neighborhoods of families all knew each other, the loss or desertion of the natural parents was quickly made up to young children by adoption into kind and friendly families, specially interested for them. All the problems of property were simple and easier to meet than they are to-day. Later still than the time I allude to—in old Roman days the habit of adoption of children by childless families, was the rule; and such children were regarded among their fellow-citizens as having all the rights and privileges of lineal descendants.

In France the habit of boarding out children, often with a view to final adoption, has been practised for many hundred years with a good measure of success—a success varying in certain localities, and dependent, as all success always is, on the intelligence and skill of those who administer the system, as well as upon their benevolence. For more than a hundred years the family system has been carried out in Scotland with the best results, attested by invaluable records and statistics, and by a cloud of witnesses, whose names alone would vouch for the accuracy and care of their investigations, and the clearness of their observations. Why it should ever have been questioned, that a family *properly constituted* is not a better home for a young soul, that the best institutional life can be, seems a wonder to us when we remember that it is the plan of nature for the education and discipline of the human race—the plan of God, and its practical carrying out in strict accordance with the teachings of Christianity.

And yet, how natural it was—as the world grew older and more crowded—and the problems of poverty more complex, that wealthy persons with benevolent hearts should have planned and built large institutions, and endowed them with every means, as they supposed,



for the comfort and improvement of children. And when we, who have so recently buckled on the armor of a better system, think of the high motives of the founders of these institutions, we may well ask, in all humility, for strength to carry out our more excellent way with like earnestness and devotion.

But the experience of years, and the flood of light thrown on all questions of pauperism by the investigations of science relating to the unsanitary conditions of herding large numbers of children in one building, and also the greater dangers of contagion, moral and physical, above all, the mechanical rules of life which are absolutely necessary to preserve the general order, the habits of dependence engendered; all tend directly to a return to pauperism as soon as the child leaves the institution. Can any drill make up to a child's heart for the lack of personal affection, interest and direction; can anything make up to his mind for the loss of those exigencies and emergencies in family life, that quicken the wits, and strengthen the will?

It is one of the most encouraging signs of our times, that those who are building new institutions, incline more and more to the cottage idea, putting small numbers of children—no more than are often found in a large family—into cottages, each with its house, mother and father, one or both, and making the home as much like a natural home as it can be made, each child trained to household work, to making purchases, keeping accounts, doing family errands, and subject to the personal love and interest and direction of the heads of the individual household. Such institutions as these, are more costly in money than the large buildings or barracks that contain hundreds of children. But the gain to the children of coming that much nearer to family life is great, and cannot be too much commended. If wealthy people *must* rear monuments in brick and stone, to their really warm-hearted desire to benefit children, let them do it in this wiser, but more costly way. It will bring an abundant reward.

But for us, who have undertaken the care of the children of the State, with small means at our command, and also a belief that the family system, pure and simple, is the best of all, we can only say that *we* have no right to build monuments of brick and stone.

Children of the State! How great is our duty to them! Without parents—or worse than none—born to sorrow and neglect, and with sad inheritances for the most part, let us resolve to do all in our power to prevent them in their turn, from handing down to another generation the disadvantages that have weighted their own lives. No



work for humanity can be more important or more reasonably full of hope. But no work demands greater vigilance in its administration, and we must not enter upon it without counting the cost in steady endeavor and unfailing patience. Our committees should consist in about equal numbers of women devoted to the detailed work of looking after the records and statistics which are so important in the long run, for furnishing an accurate estimate of the work done, and a true comparison of our own with other methods of child-care, and also of women whose duty it is to study the whole subject from an all round point of view, to stimulate the doubtful and wavering, to furnish a wide outlook, a true perspective, and to console and inspire with broad views those faithful and upright souls, who would otherwise sink under the burden of details. Both of these kinds of minds are as necessary in our small fraction of the world's work, as they have been always and through all history, in the good government of God. Neither can be spared, or underestimated.

Having established our Committees, it is very important to give them all possible information of the first principles of children's aid, much of which we have learned through the study and practice of organized charity. We have learned there that the dangers of philanthropy are manifold, that in carrying out the warmest impulses without careful investigation, we may make great mistakes. We have no right, for instance, to throw open any door by which parents shall give up their responsibilities, and lay them upon others. It is an injury to *them* to allow it. In every case where a mother with her natural child comes to us, we should do our best for both, the best being to persuade her, if we can, to take service with her child in a good family, and care for it through its infancy at least, because confirmation of the natural tie and shouldering the responsibility will go far towards ennobling and redeeming her own character, and may make her the life-long lover and protector of her child. Then too comes the more difficult duty of searching out the father, if he can be found, and holding him to the responsibility of at least partial support. This also for his own good, and because society must not make it easy for any one to do wrong. And then comes the State poor, and the great number of the deserted and the orphans. What problems to be met and solved at every turn! While we lay down general principles of action, and are always devoted to our main idea, let us think constantly of the individual child, and as we would if he or she had been born into our own households, and not as belonging to a class, or as graded members of humanity. The grading

may be necessary at times, in preparing public statistics, but should never enter into our thoughts in our work with the individual child.

But there is still another class of cases that demand the care of our Children's Aid Society. We have not only to do with the fairly endowed and promising child, but often with the feeble-minded and the vicious. And I think that here there should be no hard and fast lines drawn between the use of family or institutional homes. Our compassion should be greater for these children than for any others, since they are what they are by no fault of their own, and are truly the most afflicted. Every question relating to them may be safely left to those who, heartily believing in the family system, will carry it out *always* for the normal child, but reject it for the abnormal child, where its own best good can be better sought and found in the expert training school or the reformatory. We must not allow our deep and abiding sympathy for the child (our interest which must follow it with supervision and care wherever we place it) to make us forget the different values of human life. We can only hope to lift a comparatively small number of feeble-minded children, to be self-supporting, responsible citizens. It is our duty to ameliorate and improve their condition by every means in our power, now and then placing them in a family exceptionally constituted, but more often in a training school for its own best good. A discriminating sense of values should also prevent us from running the risk of destroying our best homes for children of promise by sending the abnormal children to them. This is no imaginary risk. In Massachusetts, where the family system has been longer established than with us, I find that they lost so many good homes through using them for the feeble-minded, that they have abandoned it altogether. And for vicious children they have the admirable plan of placing them for training in the excellent State institutions at Westboro, Lancaster and Monson—only just so long as to prove their fitness for family life. I have talked with the wisest and best women I could find, in Massachusetts and elsewhere, Miss Putnam, Miss Ruggles, Miss Jacobs, Miss Ware, of Massachusetts, and also Mrs. Lowell, of New York, and every one of them agree that an expert training school is best for these reasons. And I need not tell you that they are wise and benevolent women, whose experience ought to help us. Mrs. Lowell, in fact, told me the story of a near relative of her own, whose feeble-minded child had had everything done for her in a wealthy home that devoted affection and large use of means could supply, being greatly benefitted by being placed in an institution—she was entirely happy there, and wanted to remain. She was the

daughter of people distinguished for their intellectual and moral qualities. Her mother was so broken-hearted at giving up the care of this beloved child, rendered dearer by her affliction, that it caused her a fit of illness. But she lived to rejoice in her progress and fuller development.

To those of you who would like to know how far expert training may be carried 'under favorable auspices, for the highest development of a deficient brain, I would earnestly recommend the reading of a essay by Dr. Frances E. White, entitled "Muscle and Mind," and published in the July number of the *Popular Science Monthly*, of this year. The description of an idiotic child trained from six months to the age of nine years, by Dr. Seguin, illustrated by five photographs at different ages and stages of progress, is so interesting and inspiring that it will well repay careful reading. After reading it, I could only hope that the time might come when some benevolent persons would endow our Children's Aid Society with a special fund for the purpose of giving careful and costly training to these most afflicted of our children.

The limits of this paper oblige me to pass by some of the most important relations of this subject. There is such wealth of material for thought and consideration, I have been obliged to content myself with the barest outline.

I would fain have spoken of the absolute importance of frequent visiting of the homes where our children are placed, and also have given reasons why it should not be *too* frequent, so as to partake of the character of espionage. I would like to speak of the harm to *some* children of too many changes in their homes, the injury to others from not trying many homes. And here I could tell a story which it is a shame to repeat, my patient colleagues have heard it so often, of the child returned from fourteen homes. I would like to tell you of the things we had best notice in our investigation of homes, and the things we should pass over. I would tell you of the dangers that lie in all philanthropy from overdoing, and the anxieties that grow out of it, and I would quote from a letter from Octavia Hill to me, ten years ago "The best work comes from quiet homes, and in moderate measure." I would speak of the pity it is, when we cease to possess our work, when it possesses us, making even open questions on which the wisest and best may fairly differ, become sore subjects, instead of different outlooks to be calmly discussed.

These and many other thoughts I can but indicate, only hoping they may lead others to do more justice to them than I can.



As to our mistakes, I can say with a wise writer—Show me those who make none, and I will show you those who do no work. As to adverse criticism, we have only to be grateful for it, if it quickens us to greater vigilance and earnestness, or to forget it, if it be undeserved.

We shall have our seasons of discouragement and many disheartening circumstances—think for a moment, are these peculiar to *our* work? Are they not a part of all human effort? And is the best work ever done, more than a faint approximation to the divine? Can you look through the families of your friends—of the favored—the well to do—who have every advantage of birth and education—and see no failures in the bringing up of their children—none who having done their best, have missed the success they hoped for? Oh! could we but imitate afar off the patience of God, who waits years—ages—for us to come in sight of His high methods.

In closing, I would like to relate to you a little experience of my own, which brought my first enthusiasm for the family system to the point of a definite purpose of action.

About twelve years ago, and before our Children's Aid Society was formed, I was visiting a friend in Eastern Massachusetts, who had been carrying out the family system on a small scale for twenty-five years and more. She was connected with an Infant Asylum in Boston, and was led to interest herself to find boarding homes in families for the deserted ones. In a few years she had learned to know all the suitable families in her own country village, and, also all the homes within a radius of ten miles of her own home, where children could be placed to advantage. One day when I was driving with her, she pointed out many homes to me. "That neat little house, with pretty garden, belongs to a young man and his wife, who were two of 'our children,'" she said. "I placed them each in families that I knew, where they were boarded two years. They were adopted by the families at the end of that time, bore their names, were sent to the village school with other children, taught trades later on, grew up self-supporting. Now they are married, have children of their own, but are always helpful in taking our little waifs in emergencies." This story with variations was often repeated in our morning's drive. Here was a lone woman, a cripple, earning her living as a dress-maker, but always boarding one or more of "our children;" here a gardener or a mechanic skilled and valued in their different vocations, to which they had been bred by their kind foster parents. Then I understood the meaning of the expression so often used in English records, "They were no longer paupers, or children



of paupers, they had become absorbed into the life of the family and the community, and were only known and remembered as the children of their respected foster parents." This dear friend lived to see a good proportion of blessed results, and so may we, if we can be as wise, as patient and untiring.

Let us cast away our fears, except so far as they may give rise to wisdom and caution in our work. Let us take counsel of our hopes and be sure that in the nature of things we are moving in the right direction, and that in the long run—in due time—we shall reap if we faint not. Let us not for one moment listen to the cold policy which says, "Let the badly born die in the almshouses, they are better off to die, and the community is better off without them." When we hear these words, let us make haste to show them our more excellent way; that family life is a cure for pauperism—And for ourselves, let us lay to heart and remember who has said, "All souls are mine," and that other word of Christ's, "It is not the will of your Father, that one of these little ones should perish." [Applause.]

*The President:* The Convention would be pleased to hear from Mrs. Townsend, of the Westmoreland County Children's Aid Society.

*Mrs. Townsend:* Westmoreland County did not come prepared to make a full report. We have some statistics with us, with regard to expenses and manner of working in our society. Our society was first organized by the State Society, after working a year in our county. We have forsaken the family plan. In our work we found that the boarding of our children was not practical, in relieving the district, therefore we have established a home, in which we maintain the children for weeks or months, until we can find family homes. I have some statistics, and so on, drawn from our books. From the first of October, 1888, until October, 1889: Number of children in the Home at first date, 88; removed by parents, 20; from other institutions, 4; indentured, 4; out on trial at the present time, 8; now in our Home, 11; died during the year, 1. In addition to above we have taken charge of two families, Johnstown sufferers. The average expense of a child is \$1.43. We receive some support from our Poor Directors, they allow \$1.50 per week for board. Our other expenses are made up by membership fees.

*The President:* The Convention would be pleased to hear from Miss Sarah Reed, of Erie.

*Miss Reed, (Erie):* The work of the Erie Home for the Friendless, as its name indicates, is not confined simply to the care of children; it often shelters and cares for adults needing temporary aid, and it has under its care a Home for Old People, where either old couples or old ladies are given a home. But the children's department of the Home has always been the most important part of its work, and during the eighteen years since its organization, it has cared for over one thousand children, securing for a large portion of these good, permanent homes into which they have been adopted. It is the desire of the managers of the Home to secure good homes for all the children given to the Home. One of the good offices of the institution is the care of half orphans. Fathers and mothers left alone with a small family often board their children at the Home at a mere nominal price, and are thus able to tide over a time of desolation and need, and are frequently able, after a time, to resume the care of their own children. No children, except feeble-minded ones, are now kept in the Erie County Almshouse. The Directors of the Poor place all children left in their care at once in the Erie Home.

The Home has a committee consisting of three managers, and three ladies not connected with the Home management, who are in correspondence with the Children's Aid Society, and, so far as possible, act in harmony with that association. The children of the Home are never given out as servants, but always for adoption, and care is taken to secure for each child a home suitable to its needs. The children thus given out are often visited in their homes, and the papers for adoption are never signed until both officers and committee are satisfied that the child is being well cared for.

*The President:* We have among us to-night some other ladies who are engaged in the good work of caring for the unfortunates.

*Mrs. Parker Blood, (Jefferson County):* It had not occurred to me that I would be called upon for a report, as our county has only been organized very recently. I can assure you, however, that the ladies who have been elected as county officers are in earnest and thoroughly capable, so that I feel safe in promising you a good

report from Jefferson County next year. Our county has no almshouse, and all indigent children have been cared for by private charity or the Poor Boards. For some years past I have been doing a little personal work in connection with the Allegheny County Aid Society, but the work as now organized will be much more satisfactory and effective. I am surprised to hear from some counties that the Poor Directors were not willing to co-operate with the ladies in their good work. Our experience has happily (or unhappily) been different. We were not yet formally organized and had made no official announcement to the Board of our existence as a society, when in the kindest and most fraternal manner they "dumped" five children on our hands. It rather took away our breath, but we shall no doubt rise equal to the emergency. If it is a good thing for infant societies to be at once given active work, (which I believe,) we owe a vote of thanks to our gentlemen friends. We can at least certify, "Barkis is willin'!" [Applause.]

*Mr. McGonnigle*, (Allegheny): Mrs. Wilson spoke to me today about the question of indenturing, and said she would like to get an expression of opinion from the Association on the matter. My own idea of it is, that indenturing children is something of a by-gone day. We have indentured quite a number of children and the results were not entirely satisfactory.

*Mrs. Wilson*, (Children's Aid Society): I would like to say this, without indenturing we have certainly placed out one thousand children since we started. I think Allegheny County does not indenture. We never have found any difficulty in working in that way.

*Mrs. Alston*, (Children's Aid Society): We do require any person taking a child to sign papers. There are some parties that will not take a child unless they have papers—these papers are not binding. Persons taking a child, promise to give to that child proper care and support as they would give to their own, as long as it shall be left in their care. We always reserve a right to remove. It is a formal indenture, the number of years are not spoken of—it is a home.

*Mr. Culp*, (Venango County): We do not indenture any children now, only where people want to adopt as their own. Since

the Children's Aid Society has been working in our county, they take the children. It seems to me there should be an agreement between the persons that take a child to bring up, and hold them responsible for bringing up the child. I do not know whether this is called indenturing, or what you call it.

*The President:* It is not indenturing unless certified by the Court.

*Mr. Ross:* In Montgomery County we have the old-fashioned double and twisted indenture, that is, binding articles of agreement; the law governing us is a special for Montgomery County; it requires that all indentures of children shall be approved by two justices of the peace, the theory of the law being that by the calling in of the additional judgment of two justices that the child's interests would be better protected; this is simply the theory however, as the justices never see the child nor the foster-parents, but approve and sign the indentures in blank in order, as it were, that we may keep a stock of authority on hand. We bind the foster-parent to give the child at least one quarter's schooling each year from the date of the indenture, if they are old enough at that time to go to school, until they arrive at the age of eighteen years. The children are free at that age, and are to receive two suits of clothing, one of which to be new, and fifty dollars in cash. We are not yet prepared to vote against the indenturing system. I think, sir, that the proper indenturing of children is good enough for the present; evils may exist, but I believe they exist in the administration of the laws upon the subject rather than in the system itself. I think that before the children are indentured by the Directors of the Poor, the house into which the child is going as well as the people who are to assume control of that child, ought to be thoroughly investigated. In my experience an investigation of this character is the exception and not the rule and I think the directors of our county are as conscientious as any in the State. I also think, and that most strongly too, that the motive of the foster-parent in taking a child should be carefully looked into. If that motive be gain or financial advantage, refuse them the child, for they simply take it as they would take your horse or mule to work for its keep, and the



more work and the less keep the child gets the better the investment for the foster-parent. No Director or Guardian of the Poor should place a pauper child, which is his ward, in a home into which he would not be willing to direct by his will that his own child should be placed. Make this the standard of fitness of the home and the system of indenturing children is a success. We have been considerably worried in determining the character of homes that should be chosen for children, and I was in hopes that some one would offer a resolution in order to get the sense of this Convention upon this subject, whether in the country, village, farm, shop or factory. Most of ours have gone to the farm, but we have had an unfortunate experience in indenturing children to farmers.

*Mr. Milliken*, (Philadelphia): I did not expect that I would be called upon to say anything more on this subject. When I took charge of the Department of Charities and Corrections of Philadelphia, about six years ago, we were working under the old form of indenture. This form of indenture was passed December 23d, 1828. The law has changed very greatly since that time. The condition of the society has changed very much. I had not been long engaged in the business, looking after and visiting children until I found it was necessary at the weekly meetings to do something. Such a child I found was not properly treated, perhaps the people were very poor, miserably kept, and various causes. I recommended that those indentures be canceled. My information, I remember, was to inform the family that if they chose to contest the demand the indenture would be canceled and the child restored—under the law the indenture could only be canceled before a magistrate. I do not think there was a single case during these six years where we made a demand for the indenture to be canceled. I found I could go along this way, the old indenture did not do much good, and in my estimation was doing much harm. Particularly in one case; I will illustrate it. I found placed out several years ago, before I took charge there, two little boys, brothers. I did not like the condition of the family; I felt that there was something wrong; the indenture was there in the Court. I held the matter under investigation. We got the child back, but had to wait three years on account of this old indenture before I found sufficient evidence to warrant me in

going forward, but under the present agreement they would not be able to delay.

If the members of the Convention wish to see the form of agreement under which we are now working, I have a copy of it.

*Mrs. Fisher*, (Venango County): We have had great success in the work in our county, but we have our worries too. One case particularly, which at present is troubling us, is this: A boy, Willie Stanley, was taken by our society in January, 1888, given to us by his mother, his father being a dissipated, bad man, had deserted his family, and the Poor Commissioners had rendered them assistance, at the same time telling the mother about our society and advising her to come to us with her little ones; this boy above referred to being the oldest of three. We took all the children and found them good, free homes. In July, the father writes, saying he and his wife are living together in Erie, and he wants the boy Willie; he claims never to have deserted his family. We feel it will only be a question of time until the child would again be thrown on the world, but how can we prove it? I want to ask the Convention this question, "Can this man Stanley take the boy?" The question has vexed us for some time, and we have decided to lay the case before this Convention, and ask them to advise us.

*Mrs. Richards*, (Venango County): Our Children's Aid Society in Venango County was organized in March, 1887. The Directors of the Poor cheerfully co-operate with us and assist us greatly in our work. At this time we have thirty-two children under our care, twenty-eight of these are in good homes where they are received as members of the family; one is at service receiving wages; one is at the home for the blind in Philadelphia; two are still boarding. All these children who are old enough attend school. Mr. H. A. Culp, who has charge of our county house, helps us wonderfully in our work, and his wife is a member of our society, and one of our most faithful workers. One of our children we have removed from the Morganza Reform School, where he had been placed by an unnatural and drunken father; he is now in a good home and doing well. We have a membership of about fifty ladies; membership fee, \$1.00. We are very fortunate in having small amounts of money given us; we have

never yet called upon the Poor Board to pay board for our children, but we feel certain all we need to do is to call upon them and they will respond cordially. Our children are constantly being visited and looked after by our Visiting Committee.

*Mr. Smith*, Society to Protect Children, (Philadelphia): The old style of indenture as used, where children were bound out to learn a trade is barbarous, and not in keeping with the present age. It should be done away with and something more modern substituted. I am of the opinion there should be a written agreement between the party receiving and the party placing the child, but the best safeguard for these children is the frequent visiting by an agent of the Directors of the Poor or institution placing the children out, until all parties interested shall feel satisfied the child is properly placed.

In answer to the question from the ladies of Venango County, in the case of a father who wished to obtain control of his child, I would quote section 7, Act of May 19th, 1882, amending Act of May 4th, 1885, which provides, "That it shall be lawful for any person desirous of adopting any child as his or her heir, or as one of his or her heirs, to present his or her petition to such court in the county where he or she may be resident, declaring such desire, and that he or she will perform all the duties of a parent to such child; and such court, if satisfied that the welfare of such child will be promoted by such adoption, may with the consent of the parents or surviving parent of such child, or if the father or mother from drunkenness, profligacy, or other cause, shall have neglected or refused to provide for his or her child or children for the period of one year or upwards, proven to the court, with the consent of the non-neglecting father or mother alone, or if none, of the next friend of such child or of the guardians or overseers of the poor, or of such charitable institution as shall have supported such child for at least one year, decree that such child shall assume the name of the adopting parent, and have all the rights of a child and heir of such adopting parent, and be subject to the duties of such child, of which the record of the court shall be sufficient evidence; provided, that if such adopting parent shall have other children, the adopted shall share inheritance only as one of them in case of intestacy, and he, she or they shall respectively inherit from and through each



other, as if all had been the lawful children of the same parent. Also, that either of the parents can apply to the court for a writ of *habeas corpus*, to have a minor child brought into court, and ask for its return to his or her custody. And upon the facts presented at the time the court would then decide who should have the custody of the child. It sometimes occurs that the parents have reformed, and are in circumstances to properly care for their children. In such cases the children are usually returned to their parents.

During the past year we investigated the condition of 771 families, thereby relieving 1,709 children, obtained 195 convictions in cases prosecuted, and removed 559 children from their parents or others having charge of them, placing 186 children in private families, and 373 in institutions until homes could be found for them. This society was not organized for the care of children, but for the enforcement of the laws for their protection, and to rescue them from neglect and cruelty.

It is our earnest desire to co-operate with the Directors of the Poor, Children's Aid Society, and all other institutions, who may extend a helping hand to the children.

*Mr. Ross*, (Montgomery County), offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, That the Legislative Committee on State Charities and Corrections be requested to recommend to the Legislature the necessity of having an additional institution provided for the care of feeble-minded children.

*Mr. Morrison*, (Philadelphia), offered the following resolution, which was agreed to :

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association are due, and are hereby tendered the members of the Commission appointed by the Governor to codify and revise the Poor Laws of the State for their attendance at our meetings, giving us the benefit of their advice and encouragement in the work of caring for the dependent classes.

*Mr. McGonnigle* offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That a vote of thanks be tendered the ministers of Altoona who assisted us in opening our meetings with prayer.

*Mr. Ross*, (Montgomery County), offered the following resolution, which was adopted :



*Resolved*, That a vote of thanks be tendered the Directors of the Poor of Blair County, Mr. Brumbaugh, their clerk, and to Philip Young the steward of the almshouse, for their kind attention and hospitality to the members of the Association, during this meeting ; to the Board of Directors of the Mechanics Library for the use of their hall for holding the meetings, and to Mayor Turner for the very many courtesies extended the Association.

*Mr. Biddle* (Board of Public Charities) :

*Resolved*, that a vote of thanks be tendered the members of the Legislative committee of State Charities and Corrections for their attendance during the sessions of this Association, and for their words of advice and encouragement in the work of caring for the dependent and delinquent classes.

*Mr. McGonnigle* : Moved that we recommend that the practice of indenturing children be discontinued.

*Mr. Wright*, (Montgomery County) : I hardly think the Convention is prepared to pass a resolution of this kind, and I move it be laid over until the next meeting, and in the meantime the Directors in the various parts of the State consider the matter in all its bearings, and report at the next annual meeting. After some discussion, it was agreed that the matter be deferred until the next annual meeting, and the Secretary instructed to notify the members of the Association that the subject will be presented at the next annual meeting for discussion, and that they come prepared to take it up.

*Mr. Smith*, (Philadelphia, Pa.,) offered the following resolution, which was adopted :

*Resolved*, that the Committee on Legislation be directed to prepare a form of indenture to be used in Pennsylvania, and that they present the same for consideration at the next convention.

*Mr. Gould*, (Erie,) offered the following resolution :

*Resolved*, that a vote of thanks be tendered the Ladies of the Children's Aid Societies who have met with us, for their advice and encouragement in our work.

On motion of Mr. Brumbaugh, a vote of thanks was tendered the presiding officer of the Convention for the able and courteous manner in which he presided over the deliberations of the Convention.

*The President:* I was about to request the indulgence of the Convention, to return my thanks for the very kind attention that has been shown me as your presiding officer. I feel, and appreciate the many courtesies that have been extended to me by the members of this Convention.

The Directors of the Poor, from the various counties, have good cause, to-night, to feel proud of the work that has been done. Those who have been instrumental in the various counties, I believe, can see farther in the good work than at any time since they have been interested in assembling together, for the purpose of devising plans for the relief of those who come under their charge.

The Convention should consider the honor of having the Commission, appointed by the Governor of this great Commonwealth, to meet in convention with us, for the purpose of considering the defects of the present, and to devise better laws for the poor in the future.

On behalf of the Children's Aid Society I do not feel that it is necessary for your Chairman to say one word, with reference to the organization in the State of Pennsylvania. We know what work they have done. It is entirely satisfactory and speaks for itself. Taking into consideration the work they have done, over the entire Commonwealth, it is due to them to say that this Convention should endorse almost any request they may desire, in the way of legislation.

The question of indenturing children is a very important subject, and one that is constantly being brought to the attention of those whose duties require them to provide for them, more particularly in so far as the Children's Aid Society is concerned. It is the desire of the President, before retiring, to feel assured that it is the sense of this Convention that the present system of indenturing children, should be discontinued.

There is another question that has been raised. I do not recall the County the representative is from. It is in reference to the punishment of fathers of illegitimate children. It is a question that must be met sooner or later. The mere fact of sentencing a man for three months, and releasing him from all responsibility, to my mind, is no punishment at all for such a serious offense.

(Applause.)

After some general discussion as to the necessity of providing some means of punishment for the fathers of illegitimate children, it was, on motion, decided to refer the matter to the Commission for codifying and revising the poor laws.

On motion of Mr. Brumbaugh the proper officers were directed to allow a portion of our programme for next year's meeting for the presentation and discussion of the work of the Children's Aid Societies.

The association here adjourned to meet at Lancaster on the 3d Tuesday of October, 1890.

## APPENDIX.

The following Acts of Assembly were passed at the last session of the Legislature, and are printed in accordance with resolution of the Association.

### No. 213. AN ACT.

Supplementary to "An Act dividing the cities of this State into three classes, regulating the passage of ordinances, providing for contracts for supplies and work for said cities, authorizing the increase of indebtedness and the creation of a sinking fund to redeem the same, defining and punishing certain offenses in all of said cities, and providing for the incorporation and government of cities of the third class," approved twenty-third day of May, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, authorizing and empowering cities of the third class, and other cities containing less than ten thousand inhabitants, coming within the provisions of said Act, to enact ordinances for the creation of a department for the administration of charity, and support of the poor, and providing for the government, support and maintenance of said department.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, &c. That cities of the third class, and other cities containing less than 10,000 inhabitants coming within the provisions of an Act of Assembly, entitled "An Act dividing the cities of this State into three classes, regulating the passage of ordinances, providing for contracts for supplies, and work for said city, authorizing the increase of indebtedness and the creation of a sinking fund to redeem the same, defining and punishing certain offenses in all of said cities of third class," approved the twenty-third day of May, Anno Domini, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-four, in addition to the other powers conferred in said Act, are authorized and empowered to enact ordinances for the following purposes:

First. To create a department for the purpose of administering charity, and for support of the poor, and such department shall have the care, management, administration and supervision of the charity, almshouses, poor houses, and the relief of the poor of the said city, subject however to the control of the councils.



Second. To levy a tax annually, not exceeding ten mills on the dollar, on all persons and property taxable by each of said cities for city purposes, for the support of said department.

Third. To create any office which may be deemed necessary by any such city for the proper government, support and management of said department, to regulate and prescribe the powers, duties and compensation of all such officers, and to require of each of them bonds with sufficient security, conditioned for the faithful performance of his duties.

SECTION 2. This act shall not repeal any special or local law relating to public charity in the poor affairs in any of the cities aforesaid.

Approved the 13th day of May, 1889.

JAMES A. BEAVER.

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#### No. 219. AN ACT.

Regulating the payment of traveling expenses of Directors of the Poor and County Commissioners within this Commonwealth.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, &c. That from and after the passage of this Act, Directors of the Poor, and County Commissioners of this Commonwealth, shall be allowed their traveling expenses, necessarily incurred in the discharge of their official duties, and the same shall be paid on warrants drawn in their favor on the county treasurer out of the county funds: provided, That this Act shall not apply to Poor Directors in counties having local or special laws, under which each Poor Director is allowed an annual compensation of \$150.00 or more.

SECTION 2. So much of all general Acts heretofore passed as are inconsistent herewith, are hereby repealed, but this Act shall not apply to any local law regulating the same.

Approved the 13th day of May, 1889.

JAMES A. BEAVER.

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#### No. 220. AN ACT

To authorize the Directors of the Poor of the several counties, and the Overseers of the Poor of the several poor districts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, to sue for and recover any or all choses in action belonging to any person, who is now or may hereafter become chargeable to their respective counties or poor districts.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted, &c. That whenever any person shall have become legally chargeable, as a poor person, to any county or

poor district of this Commonwealth, it shall be lawful for the Directors of the Poor of such county, or the Overseers of the Poor of such poor district, to sue for and recover any and all sums of money, which may be due to such poor person in the present, or to become due in the future, whether the same be claimed by such poor person upon an express or an implied contract, by judgment mortgage, order of decree of any court having jurisdiction of the subject matter: and for this purpose, the said Directors or Overseers of the Poor are authorized to employ any and all legal means which such poor person might have employed, had he or she not become chargeable as aforesaid.

SECTION 2. In all suits brought under section 1, of this Act, the writ or process shall issue in the name of the owner of the chose in action, for the use of the Directors or Overseers of the Poor of the proper county or poor district, and at the hearing, prove that the owner of the right of action has become legally chargeable to the county or poor district, whose Directors or Overseers of the Poor, are the use plaintiffs, shall be conclusive of their right to recover whatever may be legally due or to become due to the poor person so found to be chargeable. If the amount due shall have been already ascertained, and judgment entered, the proof that the said plaintiff has become chargeable as aforesaid shall be conclusive of the right of the proper Directors or Overseers of the Poor to be subrogated as plaintiffs in the said judgment, and if the sum due such poor person shall be founded on an order or decree of a court of competent jurisdiction, then proof before such court on a rule to show cause, that such poor person has become chargeable to any county, or poor district, shall be conclusive of the right of the Directors or Overseers of the poor of such county or poor district to recover the same, whether the same be due in the present or in the future, or due in one or several installments: and the said court shall make all the orders necessary to carry the provisions of this section into effect. Any defendant upon whom notice has been served of intention to begin proceedings under the provisions of this Act, to recover the amount owing by him to a person chargeable to any county or poor district, who shall, after this notice, pay the same or any portion thereof to any other person than the proper Directors or Overseers of the Poor, shall not thereby be released from any liability, but shall be liable to pay his entire indebtedness to said Directors or Overseers of the Poor.

SECTION 3. Should any person chargeable to any county or poor district in this Commonwealth, become self-sustaining or cease to be chargeable, by being supported by relative or other person, then any moneys originally belonging to such poor person, which may have been recovered under the provisions of this Act, by the Directors or Overseers of the Poor of such county or poor district, and not expended in the care and support of such poor person, shall belong to such poor person, the same as if no proceedings under this Act had been instituted ; and on the death of any person chargeable to any county or poor district, any moneys originally belonging to such poor person, which may have been recovered under the provisions of this Act, and not expended in the care, support or funeral of such poor person, shall belong to the heirs of such poor person, the same as if it had never been obtained by the Directors or Overseers of the Poor under the provisions of this Act. Provided, that if the entire amount expended in the care, support and funeral of such poor person, shall exceed the amount recovered under the provisions of this Act, nothing shall be refunded to the said poor person or his heirs in any event.

Approved the 13th day of May, 1880.

JAMES A. BEAVER.

## CONSTITUTION.

ARTICLE 1. This organization shall be known as the "Association of the Directors of Poor of the State of Pennsylvania."

ART. 2. The members of this organization shall consist of the Directors, Guardians and Overseers of the Poor of the several Poor Districts of the State, and all who have at any time served as such; the officers of all Almshouses in the State; the members and officers of the Board of Public Charities; Superintendents and Managers of the several Insane Hospitals and the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-minded Children; the officers and delegate of all Reformatory, Charitable and Benevolent Institutions or Associations.

ART. 3. The object of the Association shall be that of investigating and considering all questions concerning pauperism and dependency, to devise means for the prevention of the same, to suggest legislation, to establish a personal acquaintance between the Directors of the Poor of the several Districts, and so far as possible have a comparison of their different systems of management.

ART. 4. Its officers shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, one Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected annually, and hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and have signified their acceptance of the office.

ART. 5. Their several duties shall be such as usually pertain to those official positions, and they shall be governed by such parliamentary rules as are usually recognized.

ART. 6. The Association shall hold annual meetings at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the members at a regular meeting.

ART. 7. The President, the Vice-Presidents and Secretaries shall constitute a Permanent Executive Committee to arrange business and make all the arrangements necessary for each succeeding meeting.



ART. 8. The Treasurer shall pay out of the funds of the Association, only on the order of the President, countersigned by one of the Secretaries.

ART. 9. The Treasurer shall submit his account at each meeting which shall be audited by a committee appointed for the purpose.

ART. 10. The expenses necessary for the holding of each meeting shall be assessed on each Poor District represented, which shall be paid to the Treasurer.

ART. 11. Any person interested in the work of the Association will be admitted as an honorary member by a vote of the active majority present.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting, by a majority vote of the members present.



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# Alms-house Directory

—OF—

PENNSYLVANIA,

—FOR—

1889.



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This Directory of the almshouses of the State of Pennsylvania, was prepared by A. J. Ourt, M. D., Secretary of the State Committee on Lunacy, and it is the first Directory of the kind that has ever been prepared. It has been of great value and assistance to the authorities of the various Poor Districts of the State, and is printed here by permission of Dr. Ourt.

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## ALMSHOUSES.

The State of Pennsylvania has an area of 45,086 square miles and an acreage of 28,808,443; a population of 4,282,891; dwellings, 776,124; families, 840,452; number of persons to square mile, 95.21; to a dwelling, 5.52; to a family, 5.10. The State is divided into sixty-seven counties.

In eighteen counties there is neither a county, district or local almshouse, viz: Butler, Cameron, Centre, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Forest, Fulton, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Monroe, Pike, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Union and Wyoming. In these counties the poor are supported by what is known as the "township system." Under this system overseers are elected, with power to collect a tax and disburse the money received in such manner as they may deem best calculated to carry out the object of the law; they in some instances, either purchase or rent a house in which to keep their poor, while in some townships the poor are boarded with such persons as are willing to accommodate these indigent charges of the public on terms named in proposals, the overseers accepting those who make the lowest bids. In addition to these methods of providing for the poor in nearly all the counties, there is considerable outside aid.

In the remaining forty-nine counties there are sixty-five almshouses, established under special Acts of Assembly, into which the poor are collected and maintained at the expense of the counties or poor districts for which they were established, viz:

Thirty-four counties have each a county almshouse, *i. e.*, a single institution for the indigent poor of the whole county, viz: Adams, Beaver, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Bradford, Bucks, Cambria, Chester, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Mercer, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northampton, Perry, Schuylkill, Somerset, Tioga, Venango, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland and York.

Eight counties have each a single district or local poor house, *i. e.*, for the poor of a city, borough, township, or of several boroughs or



townships combined, they are: Armstrong, Carbon, Clinton, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, McKean\* and Wayne.

Two counties have each two local or district poor houses, viz: Montour and Northumberland.

Two counties have each three district poor houses, viz: Allegheny and Columbia.

Two counties have each four district poor houses, viz: Philadelphia and Susquehanna.

And one county, Lackawanna, has five district poor houses.

Of the thirty-four county and thirty-one district or local almshouses, making a total of sixty-five within the State, only twelve contained insane at the close of the year, September 30, 1888, to-wit: eight county, four local or district poor houses. The county institutions contained 249, the local poor houses 339 insane, making a total of 588.

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#### ADAMS COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 24, 1817.

Land—240 acres.

Location—One-half mile from Gettysburg on Harrisburg turnpike. P. O., Gettysburg.

Route—Pennsylvania railroad to Harrisburg, via Cumberland Valley Railroad to Gettysburg Junction, via Gettysburg and Harrisburg Railroad to Gettysburg; or by Pennsylvania Railroad to Baltimore, via Western Maryland Railroad to Emory Grove, via Hanover Junction, Hanover and Gettysburg Railroad to Gettysburg, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Franklin S. Cromer, President, Gettysburg; Aaron J. Rohrbaugh, Green Mount; John Deardorff, New Oxford.

They meet in the Court-house at Gettysburg, on the first Tuesday in each month, and on the same day visit the institution.

*Treasurer*—Harry C. Picking, Gettysburg.

*Clerk*—Edward M. Bender, Gettysburg.

*Attorney*—William Arch McClean, Gettysburg.

*Steward*—Daniel Spangler, Gettysburg.

*Medical Attendant*—John Calvin Felty, M. D., Gettysburg.

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\* The almshouse of this county is for the poor of the whole county, except the city of Bradford.

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY—ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOME (ALMSHOUSE.)

Established by act, April 23, 1852.

Land—205 acres.

Location—In Upper St. Clair township, ten miles from Pittsburgh. P. O., Woodville.

Route—Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis railway; also, Pittsburgh, Chartiers and Youghiogheny railroad to Woodville.

Poor district—All the county except the cities of Allegheny and Pittsburgh.

*Directors*—William H. Guy, President, Beers; Frank Patterson, Secretary, Beuna Vista; Joseph T. Richey, Emsworth;

They meet at the home, on the second Thursday in each month.

*Attorney*—James F. Robb, Pittsburgh.

*Superintendent*—William J. Glenn, Woodville.

*Resident Physician*—James L. Srodes, M. D., Woodville.

*Chaplain*—Rev. William Lynch, Mansfield Valley.

*Matron*—Mrs. Mattie E. Glenn, Woodville.

*Farmer*—Samuel W. Lea, Woodville.

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY—ALLEGHENY CITY HOME (ALMSHOUSE.)

Established by act, April 9, 1844.

Land—96 acres.

Location—On north side of Allegheny river, eight miles from Allegheny City, at Claremont Station, on Western Pennsylvania railroad. P. O., Hoboken.

Route—By Western Pennsylvania railroad to Claremont.

Poor district—City of Allegheny.

*Directors*—William F. Trimble, President, Allegheny City; Archie Alston, Secretary, Allegheny City; Lawrence Sloan, Allegheny City; John A. Gilleland, Allegheny City; John L. Gullet, Allegheny City; Frank Bauer, Allegheny City, William Schumacher, Allegheny City; Jacob Wahl, Allegheny City; James Shipman, Allegheny City; Samuel Tschume, Jr., Allegheny City; Henry H. Phillips, Allegheny City; Joseph Staub, Jr., Allegheny City; Constantine Pappert, Allegheny City.

They meet on the last Thursday in each month, at the home, and on the first Friday at the city office.

*City Office*—Rooms 12 and 13, city building, Allegheny City.

*Clerk*—William P. Hunker, Allegheny City.

*Attorney*—David M. Alston, Pittsburgh.

*Steward*—John L. Rolshouse, Hoboken.

*Matron*—Mrs. Mary J. Kellogg, Hoboken.

*Resident Physician*—William N. Marshall, M. D., Hoboken.

*Chaplain*—Rev. William McCracken, Hoboken.

*Clerk at Home*—Jennie B. Rolshouse.

#### ALLEGHENY COUNTY—PITTSBURGH CITY FARM, (ALMSHOUSE.)

Established by act, March 6, 1847.

Land—149 acres.

Location—Seven miles from Pittsburgh, on south side of Monongahela river. P. O., Homestead.

Route—By Pennsylvania railroad, Monongahela division; also, by Pittsburgh and Lake Erie railroad; also, by Baltimore and Ohio railroad; also, by packet boat up the Monongahela river to city farm.

Poor district—City of Pittsburgh.

This institution, under the new city charter, framed in accordance with the provisions of act, June 14, 1887, was, on February 1, 1888, placed in care of the Department of Charities, consisting of one person designated as "Chief of the Department of Charities." Term of office four years. He has the control, supervision and powers now, by law or ordinance, conferred upon and vested in the Board of Guardians of the Poor of the city of Pittsburgh.

*Chief of Department of Charities*—Robert C. Elliot, Pittsburgh.

*City Office*—No. 177 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh.

*Chief Clerk*—Franklin H. Eaton, Pittsburgh.

*City Attorney*—William C. Moreland, Pittsburgh.

*Assistant Attorneys*—Clarence Burleigh, Pittsburgh; Thomas D. Carnahan, Pittsburgh.

*Superintendent*—George Linderman, Homestead.

*Consulting Physician*—Samuel Ayres, M. D., Pittsburgh.

*Resident Physician*—Charles W. Wilkin, M. D., Homestead.

#### ARMSTRONG COUNTY—KITANNING POOR HOUSE.

Established by act May 13, 1871.

Land—56 acres.

Location—In Valley township, two-and-one-half miles from Kittanning, the county seat. P. O., Kittanning.

Route—By Allegheny Valley railroad to Kittanning, 44½ miles from Pittsburgh, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—Kittanning borough.

*Overseers of Poor*—Geo. B. Daugherty, Kittanning; James Baker, Kittanning.

They meet at no stated time.

*Clerk*—George T. Crawford, Kittanning.

*Attorney*—Daniel B. Heiner, Kittanning.

*Superintendent*—John Jacob Brudy, Kittanning.

*Medical Attendants*—Charles J. Jessop, M. D., Kittanning ; S. A. S. Jessop, M. D., Kittanning.

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#### BEAVER COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 29, 1851.

Land—130 acres.

Location—Thirty-one and one-half miles west of Pittsburgh. P. O., Bellows-ville.

Route—By Cleveland and Pittsburgh railroad (river division), to Van Port nearest railroad station ; thence by wire ferry across the Ohio river to Bellows-ville, on opposite side and by private conveyance one and one-half miles to institution ; or by bateau from Van Port down the Ohio river to the almshouse.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Richard R. Walton, President, Industry ; Thomas Reed, Secretary, Rochester ; Alexander L. McKibben, Green Garden.

They meet on the last Friday in each month.

*Attorney*—John Franklin Reed, Beaver.

*Steward*—John H. Ewing, Bellowsville.

*Medical Attendant*—James Scroos, Jr., M. D., Beaver.

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#### BEDFORD COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 31, 1841.

Land—175 acres.

Location—Three miles southwest of Bedford, the county seat. P. O., Bedford.

Route—Pennsylvania Railroad to Huntingdon, via Huntingdon and Broad Top railroad to Mt. Dallas, via Pennsylvania railroad from Mt. Dallas to Bedford ; thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—William W. Phillips, President, Imlertown ; George Scheirer, Bard ; Abel Johnson, Chaneyville.

They meet on the first Wednesday in each month.

*Attorney and Clerk*—Thomas Armstrong, Bedford.

*Treasurer*—James E. Shires, Bedford.



*Steward*—Job S. Barefoot, Bedford.

*Medical Attendant*—Christopher P. Calhoun, M. D., Bedford.

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#### BERKS COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 29, 1884.

Land—514 acres.

Location—Three miles from Reading, the county seat. P. O. Reading.

Route—Pennsylvania Railroad; Philadelphia and Reading railroad; Wilmington and Northern railroad to Reading; thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Jacob Miller, President, Tulpehocken; Isaac D. Whitman, Reading; Abraham Schlegel, Fleetwood.

They meet the third Monday in each month.

*Secretary*—George F. Knorr, Reading.

*Attorney*—F. K. Flood, Reading.

*Steward*—Joseph D. Hornberger, Reading.

*Hospital Steward*—Alfred C. Kemp, Reading.

*Chief Nurse*—Sabina M. Schulze, Reading.

*Medical Attendants*—Jonathan S. Herbein, M. D., Sinking Spring; Rudolph B. Schulze, M. D., Reading.

*Chaplain*—Rev. Martin L. Fritch, Shellington.

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#### BLAIR COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 1, 1848.

Land—267 acres.

Location—Six miles from Altoona, or one mile from Hollidaysburg. P. O., Hollidaysburg.

Route—Pennsylvania railroad to Altoona, via Hollidaysburg on Morrison's Cove branch railroad to Hollidaysburg, thence by private conveyance to institution. The nearest railroad station is Stiffler, one-third mile from the house.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—John Loudon, President, Altoona; John A. Crawford, Arch Spring; Alexander J. McKee, Hollidaysburg.

They meet on the first Tuesday in each month.

*Attorney and Clerk*—David S. Brumbaugh, Roaring Spring.

*Steward*—Philip Young, Hollidaysburg.

*Matron*—Mrs. Keturah Young.

*Medical Attendant*—H. Hale Brotherline, M. D., Hollidaysburg.

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BRADFORD COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established under act, June 4, 1879.

Land—267 acres.

Location—Burlington, nine miles from Troy, or twelve miles from Towanda. P. O., Burlington.

Route—By Northern Central railroad to Troy, or by Lehigh Valley railroad; Barclay railroad; State Line and Sullivan railroad to Towanda; thence by private conveyance, either from Troy or Towanda, to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

The County Commissioners have charge and act as directors of the institution.

*Directors*—Levi W. Towner, Rome; George H. Vandyke, Ulster; Sheldon H. Lindley, Canton.

They meet at Towanda on Tuesday and Wednesday in each week, except the second week of each month, when they meet at the almshouse on Tuesday.

*Clerk*—Samuel W. Buck, Towanda.

*Attorneys*—Eleazer J. Angle & Co., Towanda.

*Superintendent*—Edward W. Putnam, Burlington.

*Superintendent of Insane*—William R. Sims, Burlington.

*Medical Attendant*—Edward A. Everett, M. D., Burlington.

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BUCKS COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 10, 1807.

Land—361 acres.

Location—Three miles from Doylestown, the county seat. P. O., Doylestown.

Route—By Philadelphia and Reading railroad to Doylestown; thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Charles C. Williams, President, Lumberville; William Wise, Treasurer, Tullytown; Alonzo Nicholas, Kintnersville.

They meet on the fourth Tuesday in each month.

*Clerk*—Lewis H. Clemens, Doylestown.

*Attorney*—Henry O. Harris, Doylestown.

*Steward*—John H. Meyers, Doylestown.

*Hospital Steward*—Frederick Crouse, Doylestown.

*Medical Attendant*—Harvey Kratz, M. D., New Britain.

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#### CAMBRIA COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, May 5, 1854.

Land—164 acres.

Location—One mile east of Ebensburg, the county seat. P. O., Ebensburg.

Route—By Pennsylvania railroad to Cresson, via Ebensburg and Cressons branch to Ebensburg.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Jacob Shafer, President, Gallitzin; George W. Easley, Johnstown; John F. Long, Ebensburg.

They meet on the first Tuesday of each month.

*Clerk*—The steward acts as clerk.

*Attorneys*—Donald Dufton, Ebensburg; John P. Linton, Johnstown.

*Steward*—Isidore Lilly, Ebensburg.

*Medical Attendant*—Freemont Jones, M. D., Ebensburg.

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#### CARBON COUNTY—MIDDLE COAL FIELD POOR DISTRICT, ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 26, 1855.

Land—376 acres.

Location—Eighteen miles north of Mauch Chunk, the county seat. P. O., Rockport.

Route—By Philadelphia and Reading railroad (Lehigh and Susquehanna Division) to Rockport, fifteen miles north of Mauch Chunk, thence by private conveyance three miles to institution; or by Lehigh Valley railroad to Weatherly, thence by conveyance seven miles to institution.

Poor district—Comprises parts of Carbon and Luzerne counties, viz: Banks, Lausanne, Lehigh, Mauch Chunk townships, also, Mauch Chunk, East Mauch Chunk, Lansford, and Weatherly boroughs, in Carbon county. Foster and Hazel townships, also, Freeland, Hazelton, and Jeddo boroughs, in Luzerne county.

*Directors*—Daniel A. Furey, President, Freeland, Luzerne county; Thomas Clemans, Summit Hill, Carbon county; George Miller, Weatherly, Carbon county.

They visit the institution on the last Monday in each month, and remain until Tuesday, P. M.

*Secretary*—Samuel A. Wehr, Summit Hill, Carbon county.

*Attorneys*—Allen Craig, Mauch Chunk, Carbon county; James S. Loose, Mauch Chunk, Carbon county.

*Treasurer*—First National Bank, Receiving and Disbursing Agents, Mauch Chunk, Carbon county.

*Steward*—Anthony Coll, Rockport, Carbon county.

*Medical Attendant*—James B. Tweedle, M. D., Weatherly, Carbon county.

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#### CHESTER COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, January 30, 1804.

Land—365 acres.

Location—Seven miles from West Chester, the county seat, or about the same distance from Downingtown, a station on the Pennsylvania railroad. P. O., Embreeville.

Route—Pennsylvania railroad (Philadelphia Division) to Downingtown; or by Pennsylvania railroad (Central Division) to West Chester, thence by private conveyance to the institution; the Wilmington and Northern railroad, which runs from Wilmington to Reading, passes within three-fourths of a mile of the institution; the stations Embreeville and Glenn Hall are about the same distance from the house.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Joel B. Pusey, Avondale; John S. Hope, Coatesville; J. Preston Thomas, Whitford.

They meet on the first and third Wednesday in each month.

*Secretary*—Joel B. Pusey, Avondale.

*Attorney*—John J. Green, West Chester.

*Steward*—C. Brinton Swisher, Embreeville.

*Medical Attendant*—William R. Perdue, M. D., Unionville.

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#### CLINTON COUNTY—LOCK HAVEN POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, ——\*

Land—One-half acre.

Location—On Bald Eagle street, about two squares from the railroad station at Lock Haven, the county seat. P. O., Lock Haven.

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\* Date of unknown; buildings were erected about 1863.



Route—By Pennsylvania (P. and E. division) railroad; also Beech Creek railroad to Lock Haven.

Poor district—City of Lock Haven.

*Committee on Poor of City Councils*—John A. Robb, Chairman, Lock Haven; William Ely, Lock Haven; John W. Smith, Lock Haven; Louis Haberstroh, Lock Haven; James A. Bickford, Lock Haven.

*City Clerk*—S. Miller McCormick, Lock Haven.

*City Solicitor*—George Brown, Lock Haven.

*Overseer of Poor*—John H. Laverty, Lock Haven.

(The Overseer has charge of the poor house.)

*Matron*—Mrs. Mary Marsh, Lock Haven.

*Medical Attendant*—Franklin Schuyler Smith, M. D., Lock Haven.

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#### COLUMBIA COUNTY—BLOOM POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, March 12, 1869.

Land—100 acres.

Location—Outside of poor district, in Mount Pleasant township, two miles from Bloomsburg, the county seat. P. O., Bloomsburg.

Route—Philadelphia and Reading railroad to Rupert, thence by omnibus two miles to Bloomsburg, or, by Pennsylvania road (P. and E. division) to Northumberland, via Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Bloomsburg, thence by private conveyance two miles to poor house.

Poor district—Bloom, Greenwood, Scott, and Sugar Loaf townships.

*Directors*—Jacob Schuyler, M. D., President, Bloomsburg; L. Mason Petit, Light Street; Joseph M. Larish, Central.

They meet on the last Saturday in each month.

*Secretary*—Christopher A. Kleim, Bloomsburg.

*Treasurer*—John K. Grotz, Bloomsburg.

*Attorney*—Elijah R. Ikler, Bloomsburg.

*Steward*—Thomas McBride, Bloomsburg.

*Matron*—Amanda McBride, Bloomsburg.

*Medical Attendants*—Frederick W. Redeker, M. D., Espy; H. Washington McReynolds, M. D., Bloomsburg.

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#### COLUMBIA COUNTY—CONYNGHAM AND CENTRALIA POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, April 29, 1869.

Land—80 acres.

Location—In Locust township, near Numidia, eight miles north of Centralia borough. P. O., Centralia.

Route—Lehigh Valley railroad, via Mahanoy branch to Centralia, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—Centralia borough and Conyngham township.

*Directors*—Peter Lenihan, President, Centralia; Bernard J. Doyle, Centralia; Thomas Darrah, Centralia.

They meet on the first Saturday in each month.

*Clerk*—Joseph Parker, Centralia.

*Treasurer*—Charles G. Murphy, Centralia.

*Attorney*—J. Harry James, Ashland, Schuylkill county.

*Steward*—Charles Weidman, Centralia.

*Medical Attendant*—Ralph M. Lashell, M. D., Centralia.

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#### COLUMBIA COUNTY—MADISON POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, April 9, 1872.

Land—106 acres.

Location—Seven miles west of Bloomsburg, or three miles from Jerseytown. P. O., Jerseytown.

Route—Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Erie division) railroad to Northumberland, via Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Bloomsburg; or Philadelphia and Reading railroad to Rupert station, thence by hack two miles to Bloomsburg; also, by Wilkesbarre and Western railway from Watsonstown, on Pennsylvania railroad, to Jerseytown, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—Madison township.

*Directors*—Baltis Sterling, President, Buckhorn; Conrad Kreamer, Secretary, Jerseytown; Cyrus Demott, Jerseytown.

They meet quarterly.

*Attorney*—Charles G. Barkley, Bloomsburg.

*Steward*—Austin Correll, Jerseytown.

*Medical Attendant*—Thomas J. Swisher, M. D., Jerseytown.

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#### CRAWFORD COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 15, 1851.

Land—236 acres.

Location—Six miles from Meadville, the county seat. P. O., Saegerstown.

Route—Erie and Pittsburgh railroad to Linesville, via Meadville and Linesville railroad to Meadville; also, by Allegheny Valley railroad to Franklin, via New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio railroad to Saegerstown; thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

The County Commissioners act as directors.

*Directors*—Henry P. Marley, President, Cochranston; Edwin J. Bailey, New Richmond; Walter R. Lindsay, Riceville.

They visit the institution usually about the first of the month.

*Clerk*—Orrin H. Hollister, Meadville.

*Attorney*—George F. Davenport, Meadville.

*Superintendent*—Andrew J. McQuiston, Saegerstown.

*Medical Attendant*—Henry E. Smith, M. D., Saegerstown.

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#### CUMBERLAND COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Incorporated February 12, 1829.

Land—300 acres.

Location—One mile east from Carlisle, the county seat. P. O., Carlisle.

Route—Cumberland Valley railroad to Carlisle; thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—James Coyle, President, Carlisle; William R. Line, Carlisle; Jacob Emminger, Mechanicsburg.

They meet on the first Thursday in each month.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—Henry S. Ritter, Carlisle.

*Attorney*—William A. Kramer, Carlisle.

*Steward*—Philip M. Boyer, Carlisle.

*Medical Attendant*—William H. Longsdorf, M. D., Carlisle.

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#### DAUPHIN COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 28, 1806.

Land—180 acres.

Location—Two miles from Harrisburg, the county seat. P. O., Harrisburg.

Route—Pennsylvania railroad; Philadelphia and Erie railroad; Philadelphia and Reading railroad; Northern Central railroad; Cumberland Valley railroad to Harrisburg; thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Adam H. Shope, President, Oberlin; Leonard W. Clemson, Agent of the Board, Dauphin; John Conkling, Harrisburg.

They meet on the first Monday in each month at the court house in Harrisburg, and on following Tuesday at the almshouse.

*Clerk*—George A. Garverich, Dauphin.

*Attorney*—Frederick M. Ott, Harrisburg.

*Steward*—Henry D. Bachman, Box 267, Harrisburg.

*Medical Attendant*—Maurice O. Putt, M. D., Oberlin.

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DELAWARE COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, February 13, 1804.

Land—103 acres.

Location—Two-and-one-half miles west of Media, the county seat. P. O., Lima.

Route—Philadelphia, Wilmington and Baltimore (Central division) railroad to Media or Glen Riddle; thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Charles M. Cheny, President, Booth's Corner; Joseph Leedom, Manoa; Calvert Cardwell, Upland.

They meet on the third Monday in each month.

*Clerk*—Have none.

*Attorney*—George Booth, Chester.

*Steward*—William Eves, Lima.

*Treasurer*—Steward acts.

*Medical Attendant*—Samuel Trimble, M. D., Lima.

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ERIE COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, June 24, 1839.

Land—141 acres.

Location—Three-and-one-half miles west of Erie city, the county seat. P. O., Erie.

Route—Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Erie division) railroad; Erie and Pittsburgh railroad; New York, Chicago and St. Louis railroad; Lake Shore and Michigan Southern railroad to Erie; thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Henry Dunn, President, Erie; Daniel Roberts, Cranesville; Benjamin E. Riblet, Harbour Creek.

They meet on the first Tuesday in each month at the almshouse.

City office, 11 Noble block, Erie.



*Clerk*—Justin Robinson, Erie.

*Treasurer*—Joseph I. Town, Erie, (Keystone Bank.)

*Attorney*—Edward P. Gould, Erie.

*Superintendent*—William M. Brown, Erie.

*Medical Attendant*—Jones J. Seward, M. D., Erie.

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#### FAYETTE COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 2, 1822.

Land—128 acres.

Location—One-and-one-half miles from Uniontown, the county seat. P. O., Uniontown.

Route—South-West Pennsylvania railroad; also, Baltimore and Ohio (Fayette County branch) railroad to Uniontown; thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—James Hardy, President, Dunbar; Elijah L. Shipley, Falls City; John R. Caruthers, Uniontown.

They meet on the last Friday in each month.

*Clerk*—Steward acts.

*Attorneys*—Paoli S. Morrow, Uniontown; Frank M. Fuller, Uniontown.

*Steward*—John D. Carr, Uniontown.

*Medical Attendant*—Jacob S. Gaddis, M. D., Uniontown.

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#### FRANKLIN COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 11, 1807.

Land—200 acres.

Location—Two miles from Chambersburg, the county seat. P. O., Chambersburg.

Route—Cumberland Valley railroad; Western Maryland railroad; Mount Alto railroad to Chambersburg, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—John Witherspoon, President, Upton; Levi Houser, Chambersburg; Thomas E. Fuller, Shippensburg.

They meet on the first Tuesday in each month.

*Attorney and Clerk*—Linn Harbauch, Chambersburg.

*Steward*—Augustus H. Etter, Chambersburg.

*Medical Attendant*—John P. Seibert, M. D., Chambersburg.

## GREENE COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 13, 1859.

Land—147 acres.

Location—Three miles from Waynesburg, the county seat. P. O., Waynesburg.

Route—Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis railroad to Washington, via Waynesburg and Washington railroad to Waynesburg, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Emanuel Beall, President, Davistown; John Hoge, Oak Forest; Cephas Grimes, Treasurer, Waynesburg.

They meet on the first Monday in each month.

*Clerk*—Have none.

*Attorney*—James A. J. Buchanan, Waynesburg.

*Steward*—William B. Cage, Waynesburg.

*Medical Attendant*—Abram B. Patton, M. D., Waynesburg.

## HUNTINGDON COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, May 6, 1850.

Land—174 acres.

Location—Twenty miles from Huntingdon, the county seat. P. O., Shirleysburg.

Route—Pennsylvania railroad to Mount Union, via East Broad Top railroad to Shirley station, thence by private conveyance three-quarters of a mile to institution.

*Directors*—Morris Gutshall, President, Three Springs; Samuel P. Brumbaugh, Grafton; Samuel Dickson, McAlevy's Fort.

They meet on the first Tuesday in each month.

*Clerk*—George W. Whittaker, Shirleysburg.

*Treasurer*—George M. McAlevy, Huntingdon.

*Attorney*—J. Randolph Simpson, Huntingdon.

*Steward*—William B. Gilleland, Shirleysburg.

*Medical Attendant*—Frank L. Schum, M. D., Shirleysburg.

## LACKAWANNA COUNTY—BLAKELY POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, April 17, 1861.

Land—86 acres.

Location—In Scott township, six miles from Olyphant, a station on the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company railroad. P. O., Green Grove.

Route—Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Scranton, via Delaware and Hudson Canal Company railroad to Olyphant; Philadelphia and Reading to Wilkesbarre, via Delaware and Hudson Canal Company railroad to Olyphant, thence by private conveyance six miles to Green Grove where the institution is.

Poor district—Boroughs of Archbald, Blakely, Dickson, Olyphant, Winton, and a portion of Jermyn.

*Directors*—Martin Cawley, President, Archbald; James J. Lynch, Treasurer, Olyphant; John R. Jones, Secretary, Olyphant.

They meet on the last Monday of each month.

*Attorneys*—John R. Jones, Olyphant; Alexander Farnham, Wilkesbarre, Luzerne county.

*Superintendent*—James P. Thatcher, Green Grove.

*Medical Attendants*—Leonard Kelly, M. D., Olyphant; John J. Welsh, M. D., Olyphant.

#### LACKAWANNA COUNTY—CARBONDALE CITY POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, March 9, 1860.

Land—90 acres.

Location—In Greenfield township, five miles north-west of Carbondale. P. O., Carbondale.

Route—Delaware, Lackawanna and Western; or New Jersey Central railroad to Green Ridge (Scranton), via Delaware and Hudson Canal Company railroad (Pennsylvania division); New York, Lake Erie and Western railroad (Jefferson branch) to Carbondale, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—City of Carbondale.

*Directors*—James B. Faulkner, President, Carbondale; Patrick F. Moffitt, Treasurer, Carbondale; Michael F. Gilmartin, Secretary, Carbondale; Patrick F. Murray, Carbondale.

They meet on the first Monday in each month.

*Steward*—Frank E. Moore, Carbondale.

*Medical Attendant*—J. A. Kelly, M. D., Carbondale.

*Attorney*—Charles E. Lathrop, Carbondale.

#### LACKAWANNA COUNTY—HILLSIDE FARM ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 9, 1862.

Land—148 acres.

Location—Nine miles from Scranton, the county seat; or two miles from Clark's Summit, a station on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad. P. O., Clark's Summit.

Route—Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Clark's Summit, the nearest railroad station, thence by private conveyance two miles to institution ; or, by Philadelphia and Reading ; Delaware and Hudson Canal Company railroad ; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Scranton ; or, by Pennsylvania railroad to Manunka Chunk, via Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Scranton, thence by private conveyance to almshouse.

Poor district—Is known as "Scranton poor district." Comprises Dunmore borough and Scranton city.

*Directors*—John Stewart, President, Scranton ; Patrick J. Murphy, Dunmore ; Henry B. Rockwell, Scranton ; David M. Jones, Scranton ; Lewis Pughe, Scranton ; John Gibbons, Scranton ; Frederick W. Berger, Scranton.

They meet on the first and third Fridays in each month at Scranton. A farm committee, consisting of two members, one or both of whom visit the farm twice a month.

*Secretary*—Edward J. Lynett, Scranton.

*Attorney*—Samuel W. Edgar, Scranton.

*Superintendent*—Charles S. Fowler, Clark's Summit.

*Resident Physician*—Andrew Strang, M. D., Clark's Summit.

#### LACKAWANNA COUNTY—NORTHERN LUZERNE POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, April 4, 1868.

Land—125 acres.

Location—In South Abington township, nine miles from Scranton, or one and three-fourth miles from Clark's Summit station. P. O., Clark's Summit.

Route—Pennsylvania railroad to Manunka Chunk, via Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Clark's Summit ; thence by private conveyance to institution ; or, by Philadelphia and Reading railroad ; Delaware and Hudson Canal Company railroad ; Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Scranton ; thence by private conveyance to poor house.

Poor district—Newton, North Abington, Scott and South Abington townships.

*Directors*—Thomas Smith, President, Dalton ; George W. Beemer, Treasurer, Clark's Summit ; Merrit H. Coon, Clark's Green.

They meet the first Saturday in each month.

*Secretary*—John C. Higgins, Clark's Green.

*Attorney*—None at present.

*Superintendent*—George Vosburg, Clark's Summit.

*Medical Attendant*—Benjamin F. Evans, M. D., Clark's Green.



## LACKAWANNA COUNTY—RANSOM POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, May 8, 1857.

Land—250 acres.

Location—In Ransom township, Lackawanna county, on the east side of Susquehanna river, six miles northwest of Pittston, and one mile east of Ransom station on the Lehigh Valley railroad. P. O., Ransom.

Route—Philadelphia and Reading railroad to Bethlehem, via Lehigh Valley railroad to Ransom.

Poor district—Comprises Jenkins, Marcy and Pittston townships; Hughestown, Pittston, Pleasant Valley and Yatesville boroughs, in Luzerne county; Lackawanna and Old Forge townships in Lackawanna county.

*Directors*—Lewis C. Hessler, President, Moosic, Lackawanna county; Louis Seibel, Treasurer, Pittston, Luzerne county; Paul Bohan, Pittston, Luzerne county; John Young, Jenkins, P. O., Pittston, Luzerne county; George B. Seamans, Pleasant Valley, Avoca P. O., Luzerne county.

The board meets on the first Monday in each month at the poor house, and on the third Monday at the People's Bank, in Pittston.

*Secretary*—Paul Bohan, Pittston, Luzerne county.

*Attorney*—Hubbard B. Payne, Esq., Wilkes-Barre, Luzerne county.

*Steward*—Jacob Place, Ransom.

*Matron*—Mary A. Place, Ransom.

*Medical Attendants*—James S. Porteus, M. D., Minooka, Lackawanna county; Gideon Underwood, M. D., Pittston, Luzerne county.

## LANCASTER COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, February 27, 1797.

Land—197 acres.

Location—One mile from Pennsylvania railroad station. P. O. Lancaster.

Route—Pennsylvania railroad; also, by Philadelphia and Reading railroad to Lancaster, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Daniel Herr, President, Refton; Jacob S. Strine, Columbia; William Good, Cedar Lane; Reuben W. Bard, Lincoln; Emanuel H. Hershey, Gordonville; Benjamin F. Weaver, Salisbury.

They visit the institution on the first and third Saturdays in each month.

*Secretary*—Harry K. Myers, Lancaster.

*Treasurer*—John B. Miller, Lancaster.

*Attorney*—William N. Appel, Lancaster.

*Steward*—George E. Worst, Lancaster.

*Physician*—Eli B. Landis, Lancaster.

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LAWRENCE COUNTY—NEW CASTLE POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, March 8, 1866.

Land 43½ acres.

*Location*—In Shenango township, three miles southeast of the town, or one mile east of the city line. P. O., New Castle.

*Route*—Erie and Pittsburgh; Buffalo, New York and Philadelphia; Pittsburgh and Lake Erie; Pittsburgh and Western railroads to New Castle, thence by private conveyance to poor house.

Poor district—New Castle city.

All poor matters are managed by city councils, under act, May 22, 1879. P. L., p. 67.

*Director*—William B. Lupton, New Castle.

*City Solicitor*—William T. Burns, New Castle.

*Warden or Steward*—George L. Leslie, New Castle.

*Medical Attendant*—Charles A. Read, M. D., New Castle.

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LEBANON COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 16, 1830.

Land—198 acres.

*Location*—Two miles east of Lebanon, the county seat. P. O., Lebanon.

*Route*—Philadelphia and Reading (Lebanon Valley branch); Cornwall: Cornwall and Lebanon, and Colebrook Valley railroad to Lebanon, thence by private conveyance to institution. The nearest railroad station is Avon on Lebanon Valley branch, less than a mile from the almshouse.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Matthias Sheets, President, Klienfeltersville; Henry Smith, Lebanon; William Corothers, Campbellstown.

They meet on the first Monday in each month.

*Clerk*—Samuel Weiss, Jr., M. D., Lebanon.

*Attorney*—P. Simpson Keiser, Lebanon.

*Treasurer*—Edward D. Krall, Lebanon.

*Steward*—Jacob A. H. Boger, Lebanon.

## LEHIGH COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 11, 1844.

Land—250 acres.

Location—Four miles west of Allentown, the county seat. P. O., Wescosville.

Route—Lehigh Valley ; Philadelphia and Reading ; Perkiomen railroads to Allentown, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Willoughby Guth, President, Allentown ; John W. Schwartz, Coplay ; Alexander P. Toxell, Ruchville.

They meet on the first Monday in each month.

*Clerk*—Sylvanus A. J. Kern, Wescosville.

*Attorney*—Robert E. Wright, Jr., Allentown.

*Treasurer*—Charles O. Shantz, Allentown.

*Steward*—Moses Kern, Wescosville.

*Medical Attendants*—Solon C. B. Fogel, M. D., Fogelsville ; Albert J. Erdman, M. D., Orefield.

## LUZERNE COUNTY—CENTRAL POOR DISTRICT ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 2, 1860.

Land—145 acres.

Location—Twelve miles south of Wilkesbarre, the county seat. P. O. Nanticoke.

Route—Lehigh Valley ; or, Philadelphia and Reading railroad to Wilkesbarre, via Pennsylvania (Sunbury division) railroad to Retreat station at Alms-house ; or, Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Erie division) railroad to Sunbury, via Sunbury division to Retreat station.

Poor district—Hanover, Kingston, Newport, Plains, Plymouth, Wilkesbarre townships, Plymouth borough and Wilkesbarre city, all of which are entitled to one director, severally appointed by the court of quarter sessions, to represent them in the board. The boroughs of Ashley, Edwardsville, Forty Fort, Laurel Run, Luzerne, Miner's Mills, Nanticoke, Parsons, Sugar Notch, Warrior Run and Wyoming have been erected out of territory embraced in the "Central poor district," and their poor belong to said district, but are not entitled to representation in the board of poor directors.

*Directors*—Owen B. McKnight, President, Plains ; William Dickover, Wilkesbarre ; Marx Long, Wilkesbarre ; Stephen B. Vaugh, Kingston ; Abram Nesbit, Kingston ; Ira Davenport, Plymouth ; Eugene N. Alexander, Nanticoke ; Andrew J. Bellas, Nanticoke.

They meet on the first Monday in each month.

*Secretary and Treasurer*—Abram Nesbit, Kingston.

*Attorney*—Daniel L. O'Neill, Wilkesbarre.

*Superintendent*—Moses K. Eichelberger, Nanticoke.

*Medical Attendant*—Charles Long, M. D., Wilkesbarre.

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LYCOMING COUNTY—WILLIAMSPORT CITY ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 20, 1853.

Land—6 acres.

Location—In Loyalsock township, one mile north of and in the suburbs of Williamsport, the county seat. P. O., Williamsport.

Route—North Central; Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Erie division); Philadelphia and Reading (Catawissa and Williamsport division); Corning, Cowanesque and Antrim (Pine Creek division) railroads to Williamsport, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—City of Williamsport.

*Directors*—John Hartmann, President, Williamsport; Lewis G. Huling, Williamsport; David W. Miller, Secretary, Williamsport.

They meet on every Wednesday and Saturday in each month.

*Attorney*—James B. Krause, Williamsport.

*Steward*—Nelson S. Hill, Williamsport.

*Medical Attendant*—Charles W. Youngman, M. D., Williamsport.

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McKEAN COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, June 4, 1879.

Land—350 acres.

Location—One mile from Smethport. P. O., Smethport.

Route—Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Erie division) railroad to Emporium, via Buffalo, New York and Philadelphia railroad to Larabee's, via McKean and Buffalo railroad to Smethport; or, by Lehigh Valley railroad to Waverly, via New York, Lake Erie and Western to Carrolton, via Bradford branch to Bradford, via Bradford, Bordell and Kinzua railroad to Smethport, thence by private conveyance one mile to institution.

Poor district—The whole county except Bradford City.

The County Commissioners have charge and act as Directors of the institution.

*Directors*—James Anglun, Smethport; Philetus M. Fuller, Smethport; James A. McKean, Smethport.

They have no regular day for visiting the almshouse.

*Clerk*—Murray B. Greer, Smethport.

*Attorney*—Robert H. Rose, Smethport.



*Superintendent*—John R. Chadwick, Smethport.

*Medical Attendant*—Edgar G. Brown, M. D., Smethport.

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MERCER COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 22, 1850.

Land—206 acres.

Location—One-and-one-half miles from Mercer, the county seat. P. O., Mercer.

Route—Western New York and Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh division) railroad ; Pittsburgh, Shenango and Lake Erie railroad to Mercer, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Sylvester Reznor, President, New Hamburg ; Martin L. Alexander, Mercer ; John C. Allen, Secretary, New Wilmington, Luzerne county.

They meet on the first Monday in each month.

*Attorney*—Wilson H. Cochran, Mercer.

*Steward*—George H. Caldwell, Mercer.

*Medical Attendant*—Robert M. Hope, M. D., Mercer.

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MIFFLIN COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 27, 1846.

Land—200 acres.

Location—A mile-and-a-half from railroad station, or one-half mile from Lewistown, the county seat. P. O., Lewistown.

Route—Pennsylvania railroad to Lewistown, a station one mile-and-a-half from the institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—John R. Garver, President, Kishacoquillas ; Albert Steinbager, Lewistown ; John S. Smith, Wagner.

They meet on the second Tuesday in each month.

*Clerk*—Samuel J. Brisbin, Lewistown,

*Attorney*—Rufus C. Elder, Lewistown.

*Steward*—Lewis H. Ruble, Lewistown.

*Medical Attendant*—Alexander S. Harshbarger, M. D., Lewistown.

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Route—Lehigh Valley (Mahoning division); Northern Central (Shamokin division); Philadelphia and Reading railroads to Shamokin, thence by private conveyance to institution.\*

Poor district—Coal township and Shamokin borough.

*Directors*—George Smith, President, Shamokin; Samuel R. Coutts, Treasurer; Shamokin; Thomas O'Gara, Shamokin.

They meet on the first Tuesday in each month.

*Secretary*—Francis Schleif, Shamokin.

*Attorney*—William W. Ryon, Shamokin.

*Warden or Steward*—Joseph Woolcock, Shamokin.

*Medical Attendants*—Richard L. Wright, M. D., Shamokin; David S. Hollenback, M. D., Shamokin.

#### NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—SUNBURY POOR HOUSE.

Established by act——

Land—one acre.

Location—One mile below Sunbury, on east side of Susquehanna river. P. O., Sunbury.

Route—Pennsylvania (Philadelphia and Erie, Lewistown, and Sunbury divisions); Northern Central; Philadelphia and Reading (Catawissa and Williamsport branch) railroads to Sunbury, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—Sunbury.

*Overseers of the Poor*—Peter Bowen, Sunbury; Jacob Renn, Sunbury.

They meet on the last Tuesday in each month.

*Clerk*—Have none.

*Attorney*—Charles M. Clement, Sunbury.

*Matron*—Elizabeth Haas, Sunbury.

*Medical Attendant*—William W. Moody, M. D., Sunbury.

#### PERRY COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 29, 1824.

Land—172 acres.

\* NOTE—There is a water station on the Philadelphia and Reading road, only the width of two fields from poor house; it is a flag station but all trains stop.



*Location*—One-half mile from Loysville, which is ten miles from New Bloomfield, the county seat. P. O., Loysville.

*Route*—Pennsylvania (Middle division) railroad to Newport, thence by Landisburg stage to poor house, fifteen miles distant; the stage leaves Newport daily at 1.30 P. M., arriving at Loysville at 5.30 P. M.

*Poor district*—The whole county.

*Directors*—John Wilt, President, Blain; John Freeland, Newport; Jacob M. Wagner, Landisburg.

They meet on the last Friday in each month.

*Clerk*—Henry D. Stewart, Landisburg.

*Attorney*—Edward R. Sponsler, New Bloomfield.

*Treasurer*—Steward acts.

*Steward*—Peter G. Kell, Loysville.

*Medical Attendant*—Charles E. Delacy, M. D., Loysville.

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#### PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—GERMANTOWN POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, March 31, 1809.

*Land*—6 acres.

*Location*—On Rittenhouse street below Wayne avenue. P. O., Germantown.

*Route*—Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, Germantown and Chestnut Hill division) railroad to Chelton avenue station, which is close by the institution.

*Poor district*—Germantown township, now a part of twenty-second ward, city of Philadelphia.

*Directors*—Christian Donat, President, Chestnut Hill; Alexander P. Keyser, Secretary, Germantown; John J. Crout, Treasurer, Germantown; Josephus C. Gilbert, M. D., Chestnut Hill; John F. Neiman, Germantown; John G. Schuler, Germantown; William F. List, Germantown; Joseph Sheets, Germantown; Horatio J. Benson, Germantown.

They meet on the last Thursday in each month.

*Attorney*—G. Harry Davis, Philadelphia.

*Steward*—Henry Laut, Germantown.

*Medical Attendant*—George F. Souwers, M. D., Germantown.

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PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—PHILADELPHIA CITY  
(BLOCKLEY) ALMSHOUSE

Established in 1729.\*

Land———acres.

Location—Thirty-fourth and Pine streets, West Philadelphia. P. O., Philadelphia.

Route—Pennsylvania railroad to South street; also, by passenger railway street cars.

Poor district—Comprises the whole city or county, except the Twenty-third ward, Germantown and Bristol townships in Twenty-second ward; also, Roxborough township in Twenty-first ward.

This institution, including the insane department, was on April 1, 1887, by the provisions of the new city charter, act June 1, 1885, placed under the control of the Department of Charities and Correction, composed of a president and four directors; the Board of Guardians of the Poor being abolished.

*Directors*--Robert Loughlin, President, Philadelphia; James Stewart, Treasurer, Philadelphia; Richard C. McMurtrie, Philadelphia; Richard A. Cleemann, M. D., Philadelphia; Galloway C. Morris, Philadelphia.

The Department of Charities and Correction consists of two bureaus: Bureau of Charities and Bureau of Corrections.

Stated meetings are held at the office of the department, Girard Building, corner of Harmony and Hudson streets, Philadelphia, on the second Monday in each month. The Bureau of Charities meets every Wednesday at the institution.

*City Office of Bureau of Charities*—No. 42 North Seventh street, Philadelphia.

*Secretary*—Robert C. Floyd, No. 43 North Seventh street, Philadelphia.

*Solicitor*—Samuel E. Caven, 128 South Sixth street, Philadelphia.

*Superintendent*—George Roney, Philadelphia.

*House Agent*—Oliver P. Bohler; to whom all correspondence relating to non-residents should be addressed.

*Chief Resident Physician*—George M. Wells, A. M., M. D.

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\* The first almshouse was established in 1729, the building being completed in 1732. The second almshouse was erected and opened in October, 1767, and the former one abandoned. The third or present almshouse was erected and opened in 1838, and the second one abandoned.

The Philadelphia hospital was established at the same place with the almshouse in 1732.

*Assistant Physicians, Insane Department*—William B. Jamison, M. D.; Amelia Gilmore, M. D.

*Supervisors, Insane Department*—Alexander Ramsey, Emily Herriotts.

*Store-keeper*—Albert F. Randolph.

*Overseer of Manufactory*—Zachary Taylor Rickards.

*Chief Druggist*—Joseph W. England.

*Out-door Agent*—Alfred D. W. Caldwell.

*Chief Nurse*—Miss Marion Emily Smith.

*Assistant Nurse*—Roberta M. West.

*Surgeons*—J. W. White, M. D., William G. Porter, M. D., George McClelland, M. D., W. Joseph Hearn, M. D., Lewis W. Steinbach, M. D., A. W. Ransley, M. D., John B. Deaver, M. D., Edward Martin, M. D.

*Physicians*—James Tyson, M. D., Roland G. Curtin, M. D., James C. Wilson, M. D., James B. Walker, M. D., John H. Musser, M. D., Frederick P. Henry, M. D. (Two vacancies.)

*Obstetricians*—William H. Parish, M. D., John M. Keating, M. D., Samuel S. Stryker, M. D., Clara Marshall, M. D., Theophilus Parvin, M. D., Edward E. Montgomery, M. D., Barton C. Hirst, M. D., Edward P. Davis, M. D.

*Neurologists*—Charles K. Milles, M. D., Francis X. Dercum, M. D., James Hendrie Lloyd, M. D., Wharton Sinkler, M. D.

*Dermatologists*—Louis A. Duhring, M. D., Henry W. Stelwagon, M. D.

*Ophthalmologists*—Edward O. Shakespeare, M. D., George E. de Schweinitz, M. D.

*Pathologists*—Edward O. Shakespeare, M. D., Henry F. Formad, M. D.

*Registrars*—Medical—C. Jay Seltzer, M. D. Surgical—Charles B. Penrose, M. D. Obstetrical—Robert M. Hamill, M. D. Nervous—Guy Hinsdale, M. D.

*Resident Physicians*—Frank W. Talley, M. D., Harry M. Keller, M. D., William E. Matthews, M. D., James H. McMillan, M. D., William T. Sharpless, M. D., Milo G. Miller, M. D., Caspar W. Sharpless, M. D., Charles Walter, M. D., Samuel M. Hamill, M. D., Ambrose McCoy, M. D., Augustus A. Eshner, M. D., William R. Wilson, M. D., Thomas G. Ashton, M. D., John Bower, M. D., James H. Pelham, M. D., John L. Rothrock, M. D., Joseph Kahn, M. D.,

Shepard Voorhees, M. D., William S. Nanneman, M. D., James H. Bloomfield, M. D.

The term of the *Resident Physicians* is fifteen months ; they receive no compensation for their services.

The Board of Charities and Correction have charge of the almshouse, Philadelphia hospital and house of correction.

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#### PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—OXFORD AND LOWER DUBLIN POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, April 11, 1807.

Land—147½ acres.

Location—Two miles from Holmesburg. P. O., Holmesburg.

Route—Pennsylvania (New York division) railroad to Holmesburg, or Tacony, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—All the twenty-third ward, except the old townships of Byberry and Moreland.

*Directors*—George M. Shallcross, President, Frankford ; Samuel Hilles, Treasurer, Frankford ; William B. Hilt, Frankford ; Jacob R. Titus, Tacony ; William Dedeker, Bustleton ; Myers F. Livesey, Fox Chase ; Frank M. Richert, Holmesburg ; H. Maxwell Rowland, Holmesburg.

They meet on the third Thursday in each month from April to October at two P. M., and from October to April at ten A. M.

*Secretary*—William B. Hilt, Frankford.

*Attorney*—John Howard Morrison, Holmesburg.

*Steward*—William B. Hall, Holmesburg.

*Medical Attendants*—William Erwin, M. D., Holmesburg ; John V. Allen, M. D., Frankford.

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#### PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—ROXBOROUGH POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, April 8, 1833.

Land—47 acres.

Location—One-half mile east of Ridge avenue, on Shawmont avenue. P. O., Roxborough.

Route—Philadelphia and Reading (Germantown and Norristown branch) ; also, Pennsylvania (Schuylkill division) to Shawmont station, thence by private conveyance to poor house ; or, Philadelphia and Reading (Germantown and Norristown branch) to Wissahicken station, via Roxborough street cars to Shawmont avenue, thence as above to institution.

Poor district—The old township of Roxborough, now a part of the Twenty-first ward, city of Philadelphia.



*Directors*--John Culp, President, Roxborough ; William H. Dawson, Levering St., Roxborough ; Daniel W. Bussinger, Secretary, Blue Bellshill, Germantown P. O. ; William Ring, Lyceum avenue, Roxborough.

They meet on the second Thursday in each month at poor house.

*Attorney*--Horatio Gates Jones, Roxborough.

*Steward*--William Orrell, Roxborough.

*Medical Attendant*--Benjamin R. Peltz, M. D., Roxborough.

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#### SCHUYLKILL COUNTY--ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 4, 1831.

Land--250 acres.

*Location*--One mile from Schuylkill Haven. P. O., Schuylkill Haven Box 4.

*Route*--Philadelphia and Reading ; also, Pennsylvania railroad to Schuylkill Haven, thence by private conveyance to institution.

*Poor district*--The whole county.

*Directors*--David Gorman, President, Mahanoy City ; George Heffner, Schuylkill Haven ; William Leininger, Tremont.

They meet at the institution every Monday, also on the second Tuesday in each month.

*Clerk*--Joseph H. Gorman, Schuylkill Haven.

*Attorney*--Watson F. Sheppard, Pottsville.

*Steward*--Lewis J. Brown, Schuylkill Haven.

*Resident Physician*--John V. Albert, M. D., Schuylkill Haven.

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#### SOMERSET COUNTY--ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 15, 1845.

Land--330 acres.

*Location*--Two miles east of Somerset, or thirty-eight miles from Bedford. P. O., Somerset.

*Route*--Pennsylvania (Pittsburgh division) railroad to Johnstown, via Baltimore and Ohio (Somerset and Cambria branch) railroad to Somerest, thence by private conveyance to institution.

*Poor district*--The whole county.

*Directors*--George F. Schmucker, President, Somerset ; Jacob M. Fike, Somerset ; Alexander Hunter, Somerset.

They meet on the first day in each month, except when it falls on Sunday, then on second day.

*Attorney and Clerk*—Louis C. Colborn, Somerset.

*Steward*—John C. Miller, Somerset.

*Medical Attendant*—Harry S. Kimmel, M. D., Somerset.

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SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY—AUBURN AND RUSH POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, March 11, 1870.

Land—140 acres.

Location—In Rush township, eight miles from Springville. P. O., Rush Four Corners.

Route—Lehigh Valley to Tunkhannock, via Montrose railway to Springville, thence by carriage to institution; or, Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Montrose, via Montrose railway to Springville, thence by private conveyance to institution; or, by Lehigh Valley railroad to Meshoppen or Laceyville, thence by private conveyance ten miles to institution.

Poor district—Auburn, Forest, Rush and Springville townships.

*Directors*—Lester Turrel, Birchardville; Jerry Stephens, Niven; Bela Giffin, Rushville.

They meet on the first Saturday in each month.

*Secretary and Attorney*—William N. Barnes, Rush.

*Steward*—William Gardner, Rush Four Corners.

*Medical Attendant*—Gideon W. Durga, M. D., Rush.

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SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY—MONTROSE AND BRIDGEWATER POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, April 4, 1864.

Land—116 acres.

Location—In Bridgewater township, two-and-one-half miles southeast of Montrose, the county seat. P. O., Montrose.

Route—Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Montrose; or, Lehigh Valley to Tunkhannock, via Montrose railroad to Montrose, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—Bridgewater township and Montrose borough.

*Directors*—William W. Williams, Montrose; Willis E. Babcock, Montrose; Martin V. Bisbee, Montrose.

They meet on the first Tuesday in each month.

*Secretary*—Byington Thatcher, Montrose.

*Attorneys*—McCollum, Searle & Smith, Montrose.

*Steward*—Ashman C. Ayres, Montrose.

*Medical Attendants*—Charles Decker, M. D., Montrose.

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SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY—NEW MILFORD POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, March 11, 1870.

Land—96 acres.

Location—In New Milford township, two miles from New Milford station or six miles from Susquehanna. P. O., New Milford.

Route—Pennsylvania (Belvidere division) to Manunka Chunk, via Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to New Milford, thence by private conveyance to institution; or, by New York, Lake Erie and Western railroad to Susquehanna, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—New Milford township.

*Directors*—Dennis Houlihan, President, New Milford; Lewis W. Tennant, New Milford; Billings B. Burdick, New Milford.

They meet on the first Saturday in each month.

*Clerk*—Lewis W. Tennant, New Milford.

*Attorney*—George P. Little, Montrose.

*Steward*—Sylvanius L. Dix, New Milford.

*Medical Attendant*—Latham A. Smith, M. D., New Milford.

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SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY—SUSQUEHANNA BOROUGH AND OAKLAND  
TOWNSHIP POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, April 10, 1873.

Land—122 acres.

Location—Two miles from Susquehanna. P. O., Susquehanna.

Route—New York, Lake Erie and Western railroad to Susquehanna, thence by private conveyance to poor house.

Poor district—Oakland borough and township and Susquehanna Depot borough.

*Directors*—Charles Boyden, President, Susquehanna; Fernando E. Brush, Susquehanna; Edward J. Matthews, Susquehanna.

They meet on the first Monday in each month.

*Secretary*—Charles F. Curtis, Susquehanna.

*Attorney*—Eugene O. Neill, Susquehanna.

*Steward*—George D. Foster, Susquehanna.

*Medical Attendant*—Samuel Birdsall, M. D., Susquehanna.

## TIOGA COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 12, 1866.

Land—180 acres.

Location—One-and-one-half miles east of Wellsboro', the county seat. P. O., Wellsboro'.

Route—From Williamsport by Jersey Shore and Pine Creek railway to Stokesdale Junction, via Corning, Cowanesque and Antrim railroad to Wellsboro', thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

The County Commissioners have charge and act as directors of the institution.

*Directors*—Harry D. Wheeler, Wellsboro'; Seth Tremain, Westfield; Gerould D. Dennison, Charlston.

They meet on Monday in each week.

*Clerk*—Frank Watkins, Wellsboro'.

*Attorney*—George Merrick, Wellsboro'.

*Superintendent*—Charles T. Austin, Wellsboro'.

*Medical Attendant*—Morgan S. Bacon, M. D., Wellsboro'.

## VENANGO COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 13, 1870.

Land—275 acres.

Location—One-half mile from Sugar Creek, a station on New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio railroad. P. O., Sugar Creek.

Route—New York, Pennsylvania and Ohio railroad (New York, Lake Erie and Western) to Meadville, via Franklin branch from Meadville to Sugar Creek.

Poor district—The whole county.

The County Commissioners have charge and act as directors.

*Directors*—William A. Maitland, President, Franklin; Samuel H. McKinney, Franklin; James D. Patterson, Franklin.

They meet every month, but at no stated time.

*Clerk*—Esinger K. Smiley, Franklin.

*Attorney*—C. Albert Myers, Franklin.

*Steward*—Henry A. Culp, Sugar Creek.

*Matron*—Mrs. Emma A. Culp, Sugar Creek.

*Medical Attendant*—John B. Glenn, M. D., Franklin.



## WARREN COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE (ROUSE HOSPITAL.)

Established by act, April 18, 1864.

Land—400 acres.

Location—One-and-one-half miles from Youngsville. P. O., Youngsville.

Route—Pennsylvania (P. & E. division) railroad to Youngsville; also, Dunkirk, Allegheny Valley and Pittsburgh railroad to Youngsville, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

The County Commissioners have charge and act as directors.

*Directors*—Harvey T. Russell, Russell; Philip N. Robinson, McGraw; Joseph Clinton, Sheffield.

They meet once a month, have no regular day.

*Clerk*—C. H. Meacham, Warren.

*Attorney*—Charles H. Noyes, Warren.

*Superintendent*—Reuben P. Davis, Youngsville.

*Medical Attendant*—Alanson C. Blodgett, M. D., Youngsville.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 6, 1860.

Land—209 acres.

Location—Twenty-eight-and-one-half miles west of Pittsburgh, at Cook's station. P. O., Arden.

Route—Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis railroad (Chartiers division) to Cook's station; also, by Baltimore and Ohio railroad to Washington, thence by private conveyance three-and-one-half miles to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Joseph Farquhar, President, East Bethlehem; William B. McKennan, Washington; John C. Sloan, Buffalo.

They meet on the first Thursday in each month.

*Clerk*—Edward G. Cundall, Arden.

*Attorney*—James P. Sayer, Washington.

*Superintendent*—Edward G. Cundall, Arden.

*Medical Attendant*—William W. Sprowls, M. D., Houstonville.

## HOME FOR INDIGENT CHILDREN.

*Superintendent*—Martin S. Pence, Arden.

## WAYNE COUNTY—HONESDALE AND TEXAS POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, April 26, 1850.

Land—178 acres.

Location—Six miles from Honesdale, the county seat, in Berlin township, which adjoins Texas township, but is outside the poor district. P. O., Honesdale.

Route—Delaware and Hudson Canal Company (Pennsylvania division) to Carbondale, via Gravity railroad to Honesdale; or, Pennsylvania railroad to New York, Erie railroad to Lackawaxen, via Honesdale branch to Honesdale, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—Honesdale borough and Texas township.

*Directors*—William H. Lee, President, Honesdale; Christopher C. Lane, Secretary, Honesdale; Michael Herman, Treasurer, Honesdale.

They meet on the first Monday in each month.

*Attorney*—William H. Lee, Honesdale.

*Steward*—Adolphus M. Henshaw, Honesdale.

*Medical Attendant*—Jeffry J. O'Connell, M. D., Honesdale.

## WESTMORELAND COUNTY--ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, April 5, 1849.

Land—181 acres.

Location--Two-and-one-half miles from Greensburg, the county seat. P. O., Greensburg.

Route—South-west Pennsylvania Railroad to "County Home," a station at the institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Jacob Gettemy, President, Donegal; Joseph D. Cope, Secretary, Ruff's Dale; Samuel Bell, West Newton; Daniel Reamer, Greensburg; Samuel Galbraith, Ligonier.

They meet on the first Monday and third Friday in each month.

*Clerk*—Superintendent acts.

*Attorney*—Jacob R. Spiegel, Greensburg.

*Superintendent*—Lyman Hillis, Greensburg.

*Medical Attendant*—James L. Crawford, M. D., Greensburg.

## YORK COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, February 6, 1804.

Land—128 acres.

Location—A short distance from the railroad station at York, the county seat. P. O., York.

Route—Northern Central; Pennsylvania (Frederick division); York and Peach Bottom railroads to York.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—James S. Bailey, President, York; Samuel L. Witmer, Hanover; Frederick, Lehman, Hellam.

They meet on the first Friday in each month.

*Clerk*—Thomas Ramsey, York.

*Attorney*—Horace Keesey, York.

*Steward*—Frank S. Zinn, York.

*Medical Attendant*—William F. Bacon, M. D., York.

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MONTGOMERY COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 10, 1806.

Land—298 acres.

Location—Two mile from Phoenixville, or one mile from Mingo station, on the Philadelphia and Reading railroad. P. O., Phoenixville, Box 23, Chester county.

Route—Philadelphia and Reading; Pennsylvania railroad to Phoenixville, thence by private conveyance to institution; or, by Philadelphia and Reading railroad to Mingo.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Harry S. Lowery, President, Gwynedd; William G. Wright, Norristown; Morris Y. Johnson, Congo.

They meet the first Monday in each month.

*Clerk*—David H. Ross, Conshohocken.

*Attorney*—J. P. Hale Jenkins, Norristown.

*Steward*—Joseph H. Johnson, Phoenixville, Chester county.

*Medical Attendant*—J. Warren Royer, M. D., Trappe.

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## MONTOUR COUNTY—DANVILLE AND MAHONING POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, May 8, 1854.

Land—116 acres.

Location—Two miles north of Danville, the county seat. P. O., Danville.

Route—Pennsylvania railroad (Philadelphia and Erie division) to Northumberland, via Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Danville; also, by Philadelphia and Reading railroad to Danville, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—Danville borough and Mahoning township.

*Directors*—John C. Roberts, President, Danville; Patrick Keams, Danville; Hiram Blecher, Danville.

They meet on the first and third Saturdays in each month.

*Clerk*—William M. Russell, Danville.

*Attorneys*—Grier & Hinckley, Danville.

*Steward*—Oscar Ephlin, Danville.

*Medical Attendant*—John R. Kemerer, M. D., Danville.

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## MONTOUR COUNTY—VALLEY TOWNSHIP POOR HOUSE.

Established by act, April 8, 1867.

Land—112 acres.



Location—Five miles north of Danville, the county seat. P. O., Danville.

Route—Pennsylvania railroad (Philadelphia and Erie division) to Northumberland, via Delaware, Lackawanna and Western railroad to Danville; also, by Philadelphia and Reading railroad to Danville, thence by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—Valley township.

*Directors*—William Curry, President, Danville; Joseph Correll, Treasurer, Danville; Charles Wesley Cook, Danville.

They have no regular time for meeting.

*Clerk*—John Hendricks, Danville.

*Attorney*—None.

*Steward*—Henry Fry, Danville.

*Medical Attendant*—John R. Kemerer, M. D., Danville.

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#### NORTHAMPTON COUNTY—ALMSHOUSE.

Established by act, March 11, 1837.

Land—365 acres.

Location—Two miles west of Nazareth; nine miles west of Easton. P. O., Nazareth.

Route—Philadelphia and Reading railroad to Bethlehem, via Lehigh and Susquehanna division to Bath, thence by private conveyance three miles to institution; or, by Delaware, Lackawanna and Western (Morris and Essex division); Lehigh Valley; Philadelphia and Reading railroads to Easton, thence by private conveyance to almshouse; or, by Bangor and Portland railroad to Nazareth, thence two miles by private conveyance to institution.

Poor district—The whole county.

*Directors*—Peter Edelman, President, Hecktown; Charles Jeel, Kesslersville; Jeremiah Bauer, Bath.

They meet on the first and third Monday in each month.

*Clerk*—Steward acts.

*Attorney*—Calvin G. Beitel, Easton.

*Steward*—Herman Schmidt, Nazareth.

*Medical Attendant*—Richard M. Beck, M. D., Hecktown.

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#### NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—COAL TOWNSHIP POOR HOUSE.

Established by act of April 15, 1863.

Land—175 acres.

Location—Two miles from Shamokin. P. O., Shamokin.

*Compliments of*  
*R. L. M. J. J. J.*  
THE

SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ASSOCIATION

OF

DIRECTORS OF THE POOR,

OF THE

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

HELD AT

Lancaster, Pa., October 21, 1890.

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IRVING F. CRAGIN, Stenographer.

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PITTSBURGH:

Printed by Myers, Shinkle & Co., 523 Wood Street.

1890.

6. 11. 18



THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
Association of Directors of the Poor,  
OF THE  
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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FIRST SESSION.

The sixteenth annual session of the Directors of the Poor, of the State of Pennsylvania, convened in the Court House at Lancaster, Pa., October 21st, 1890, at 10 A. M., and was called to order by Hon. Jas. L. Graham, President.

*The President:* This being the day and hour fixed for the meeting of the Association of Directors of the Poor of the Commonwealth, you will please come to order. It is right that in all our undertakings we should invoke the blessing of the Supreme Being, and ask Him for that wisdom which is needed to properly direct us.

The Convention will be opened with prayer by the Rev. R. C. Wolf, of Washington County.

PRAYER:

Almighty Father, maker of Heaven and Earth, we would bless Thy excellent name for all the innumerable blessings bestowed on us. We thank Thee for the relation we sustain to all men; for what we have been able, by Divine help, to do for them, and for the possibility of further improvement. We pray Thy blessing may continue, and Thy Divine direction be with us during the Convention. May such wisdom attend all our deliberations, that the object of our assembling together shall be accomplished. We thank Thee, O Lord, that when we were poor and needy Thou did'st provide for us a friend,



and now we pray that our hearts may be filled with the spirit of Christ who loved us, and gave himself for us. May our hearts be tender toward the poor of this earth. O, qualify us for ministering to them. Almighty Father, let thy favor rest upon all the benevolent institutions of this great Commonwealth, and with life's labors well done bring us at last to Thee, where sorrow and suffering shall be no more forever. Amen.

*The President:* I now have the pleasure of introducing to the Convention the Honorable John B. Livingston, of Lancaster, who will present the kind invitation of the citizens of Lancaster to our Convention.

*Judge Livingston:*

*Mr. President and Gentlemen of the State Association of the Directors of the Poor, of Pennsylvania:*—It is my privilege, in the name of the Directors of the Poor of this county, as well as of the citizens of the city and county of Lancaster, to extend to your Association a most hearty welcome to our midst. I am not, of course, expected to give you instructions or map out in line the duties you will be called upon to perform, nor to state the many questions you will be required to discuss, during this, the sixteenth annual meeting of your Association. You, as Overseers and Directors of the Poor, are the governors and managers of our almshouses,—charitable institutions—erected for the benefit of the poor. You are therefore dispensers of charity, “having both the keys of office and office.” To you the laws commit the care, well-being and happiness of our unfortunate, aged and infirm poor; those whose condition must excite your sympathy every visit you make; those to whom “pity gave ere charity began;” those of whom the Messiah said, “Ye have the poor always with you.” It is, therefore, meet and proper that you, as Overseers and Directors, should assemble in convention to devise ways and methods by which you, and those who will succeed you in office, may be made better able to perform the duties incumbent upon you in the least possible manner, not only in the pecuniary interest of the taxpayers of your respective counties, but also in the distribution and use of the funds raised by them for your use in this behalf, to the greatest advantage of those for whose

comfort, health and happiness the law makes it your special duty to provide.

As Overseers and Directors of the Poor it is expected that you should each have "a tear for pity and a hand open as day for melting charity," and, at the same time, an eagle eye upon every department of the institutions under your management, so that you may at all times be prepared to detect and prevent extravagance and waste. And as "unkindness has no remedy at law," its avoidance should, on all occasions, be with you and your employers in the performance of your duties a point of honor. Your duties are numerous and onerous. It will be safe to assume that you have at present, in the aggregate, in the almshouses under your charge, about 8,500 or 9,000 inmates, including the insane, those deprived of the power of thought, the magic of the mind—who are cared for therein. And this is, perhaps, but little more than one-third of those who have been inmates of these institutions for shorter or longer periods during the year. They, as we all know, are being admitted and discharged at all times, so that, I doubt not, there have been relieved and provided for in almshouses alone, not less than 20,000 persons, exclusive of those termed vagrants since the last annual meeting of your Association. In addition to those thus cared for, the laws provide for and authorize the furnishing of what is called "out-door relief," and in most of your almshouse districts, as you know, such relief is furnished annually, to many, say in the aggregate from 16,000 to 18,000 persons,—also, exclusive of tramps or vagrants, who are generally placed in a different class and number in this Commonwealth, during the year, perhaps 35,000 individuals—they are not of us, do not belong to us—wanderers to and fro who usually, and during the most of the year, only apply to you for a few meals and a night's lodging.

There are also in almshouse districts, supported by the respective counties, under the Act of April 14, 1845, and other similar laws in institutions, other than almshouses, such as hospitals for the insane, reform schools, etc., perhaps 4,000 persons, making a total cared for in and by institutions under your charge, mostly and all supported by public charity, of 50,000 persons annually of both sexes, and we may say, of all ages, colors and nationalities. This army, of course, requires care and

care takers, as well as large expenditures of money, probably, not less than \$2,500,000 annually, it may, and we believe it does, exceed that sum. We know it requires the expenditure of large sums in Lancaster county, but we think we have, and I believe we are credited with having, one of the best, (and as I do not see present our worthy steward or any of our directors, who are so exceeding modest that they would blush if they heard me say it,) I will say and very best managed almshouses in the State, to an inspection of which we most cordially invite and welcome you. You, in this Convention represent some seventy regular almshouses (if all are represented and we hope they are) thirty-seven or thirty-eight only of which are properly termed county institutions, the remainder being local or smaller district almshouses.

There are fourteen counties in which no regular almshouses have as yet been erected, and sixteen other counties in which only local almshouses have been established for certain cities, borough and townships. The poor in most of these counties are termed "township poor," and are cared for by "township Overseers." They number about 5,000, requiring for their relief and support some \$300,000 annually. This diversity between the respective counties, with reference to the manner of supplying the wants of the poor, results mainly from from a want of positive uniformity of the laws of the State relating to the poor. The Poor Laws—which are in about the same condition as were the School Laws of Pennsylvania prior to the passage of the Acts of April 11, 1848, and April 7, 1849. Counties *may* adopt the general law or plod on under the laws existing before its passage, which have not been repealed. And this, I think, your Association will find is one of the main hindrances to obtaining the "assistance and co-operation of *all* the Directors of the Poor in our State." The correction of this difficulty is a matter now under consideration by "the Poor Law Commission," and we hope this Commission will be able to suggest and formulate a general law for the consideration of the Legislature, which will, instead of confusion and chaos, produce uniformity, regularity and order throughout the Commonwealth.

In view, therefore, of the large and (as we fear) constantly increasing number of poor persons in our almshouses of the great outlay and expense necessary to provide for their wants, and of



the great weight of the duties and responsibilities resting upon you with reference to these institutions. We do not wonder that your Association has convened at this time and in this place for meditation and consultation concerning them.

Hoping that your deliberation may result beneficially to the counties and institutions you represent, to those under your care and guardianship, and to yourselves, gentlemen of the Association, I again bid you a cordial welcome to our city.

*The President:* The gentleman from Somerset, Mr. Colborn, will reply to the cordial, kindly welcome we have received from the citizens of Lancaster and the Directors of the Poor of this county, through their representative, the Honorable Mr. Livingston.

*Mr. Colborn (Somerset County):*

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen, members of this Convention:*—It affords me pleasure on behalf of the members of this Convention to return our sincere thanks for the hearty and cordial invitation and welcome extended to us to your beautiful city. It not only affords me pleasure to return our thanks to this cordial greeting, but also to return thanks for the privilege of assembling together to consult together, that we may provide ways and means and exchange thoughts and ideas for the better care of the poor and unfortunate in life, and it is hoped, yea, it is expected that at the close of this Convention we may return to our homes carrying with us new thoughts, more zeal, more sympathy, more love, and be better prepared for the discharge of the duties pertaining to the care and treatment of the poor. Self preservation is the first law of nature. When the chilling blasts of winter approaches, the birds that awaken the woods with their sweet melodies, take their flight to warmer climes. The trees shed their foliage for a blanket for mother earth. The beavers build their dams, the squirrels fill their store-houses for the winter; the bee gathers honey to subsist on during the long wintry days, and so on throughout the animal kingdom, governed by a creative instinct they provide for the days of adversity. But this is not true as to mankind; the misfortunes and ills that mankind are heir to, brought on by sinfulness of the human family and a



disregard of the human and divine laws. We have many people who, through misfortune and not able to stand the iron heel of adversity, and the frailty of the body and mind, have become the objects of pity and care of the benevolent and charitable people of the land. Hence the great teacher and Saviour of the world, who when on earth was his greatest pleasure in ministering to the poor, healing the sick, giving sight to blind, making the lame to walk, restoring to reason the maniac, feeding the multitude who, before his victorious ascension and being crowned King of Kings and Lord of Lords, said, "The poor who have with you always." That pure and undefiled religion was to visit the widow and fatherless in their affliction. He has placed charity, the leading of all Christian virtues. While Paul, the leading Apostle, exhorts the strong to bear the infirmities of the weak, and the Psalmist has said, "He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord," and so on the blessed book is full of divine commands to look after and care for the poor and oppressed in life. And following his divine instructions, we rejoice together that we live in a country and State where such ample provision has been made for the care of the poor, and more so for those who have been bereft of their reason and who ought to enlist our tenderest sympathies and greatest care. From the earliest settlement of our country it has been the boast of the people that our country gave freedom to all; a home to the poor and an asylum to the oppressed and unfortunate in life. In our own Commonwealth the inhabitants of almost every county point with pride to the splendid homes built and maintained at the cost of the county for the relief of the poor, besides in the various sections of the State, magnificent structures have been erected and maintained on the charities of the people, through the noble impulses of the hearts of good and generous men and women for the care of the orphan, the feeble-minded, the aged and infirm, for the treatment of those who have been dethroned of their reason, and for the nursing and treatment of those who become maimed and wounded through accidents that are constantly occurring in the various industries throughout our free land.

The man or woman who devote their lives to the amelioration of the condition of their fellow-man, is engaged in a high and noble calling and deserves a high tribute. The office of Director

of the Poor is an honorable one as well as ennobling one. It is wholly a duty of love, and he who has not that virtue to a great extent dwelling in his soul cannot satisfactorily discharge the duties incumbent upon him. They are duties almost divine. They are duties that should call forth the noblest promptings of the heart. He has all classes and conditions of society to deal with. The poor, many of whom peradventure were cradled in the lap of luxury, and whose very soul revolts at the very mention of poor house, the oppressed, who have come to destitution and want through the wrongs and oppressions of others, the maimed, the sick, the palsied, the widow and orphan, the insane and idiotic, the blind, the deaf and dumb, the aged and infirm and lastly, the tramp, with his story of woes and chapter of wrongs, all, all classes of society. The care of these—to better their condition, relieve their sufferings, smooth down the cares of life and find homes for the orphan, should be the greatest solicitude of every director and person connected with the management and control of the charitable institutions of our State. Every harsh measure should be abandoned, and the lash, the whip and the shackle should be laid aside as relics of barbarism, and never used as a means of punishment. Yet I am aware that it is almost impossible in some cases to control some without the use of stern and harsh measures, but many of the most refractory may be overcome by love or mild discipline.

Of the class that should, perhaps, enlist our most tender sympathy and love are those who have been bereft of their reason and have to be confined to a maniac's cell. The weakness and helplessness of man in comparison with the lower order of animals, in respect to his physical capacities, has often been the theme of remark and reflection. Without reason and knowledge he is the most helpless of beings; but with them the most powerful. By the aid of reason and knowledge he has acquired an ascendancy over every kingdom of nature, and like a conqueror, he compels those he has subdued, to enlist in his service to further and greater conquests. By the aid of it he puts all nature to the question, and obtains a confession of her secret truths. He asks the beasts and they teach him, the fowls of the air tell him and the fish of the sea declare unto him. He speaks to the earth and her smiling flowers, her golden fruits and joyous harvests reply. The

mighty deep discloses her secrets, at his command the stars of heaven present themselves to him and receive their names. He questions the regions of mid-air, and the rushing whirlwind and deep-toned thunder give him instruction, and he learns to rule the dreaded lightnings with a rod of iron, and uses the same to transmit news over the world in a moment's time, and to illuminate the night with the brilliancy of the day. He harnesses the the mighty winds to his car and they transport him across the pathless ocean to the most distant lands, and so on. Nothing seem too great for man in the full possession of all his mental faculties, aided by the wisdom of the land, to overcome. The great feats of engineering skill, together with the ingenuity of man, has brought forth the applause and admiration of the world. But not so with that poor and unfortunate person who has been dethroned of his reason and mental faculties, he is but little removed from the animal kingdom, he is bereft of all sense of right and those things which are divine, and seems to be possessed with the spirits of the evil one, and constantly planning and doing those things which, if he were clothed in his right mind, would be the last thing he would do, and horrifying to him in the extreme. Then, indeed, should these unfortunate beings have our first and greatest care, our love, our sympathy and our prayers.

The laws of our State in regard to the care of the poor and unfortunate are good, wise and humane, but there being so many local laws and no one county of our Commonwealth scarcely having the same law, it is a difficult matter to tell wherein one law is defective and where they conflict, and how the weakness of the laws should be remedied. It was a wise movement on the part of this Convention two years ago, to petition the Legislature to pass a law authorizing the Governor to appoint a Board of Commissioners to revise the Poor Laws, and if possible, present a bill for enactment into a law which will remedy many of the defects of the old laws, and contain many wise and good provisions which were needed, when the many local and general laws can be repealed and we will all be working under one general law. And from my personal knowledge and acquaintance with gentlemen composing that Commission, I have no fears but that they will present to us during this Convention the outline of a law that we all can heartily endorse and place upon our seal of



approval. From the earliest ages of which we have any history of, we find the people of every order meeting together for mutual benefit and enlightenment for the fulfillment of the various duties and obligations devolving upon them, and coming down through the ages these meeting and gatherings have become more numerous until the present day in our country, there is not a society of any kind but what have their conventions or annual gatherings. The churches have their synods, presbyteries, associations or annual gatherings, when they meet for mutual instruction and to provide ways and means to extend and build up the Master's kingdom. The Templars' have their conclaves; the various lodges have their grand lodge assemblages, all to create a deeper interest in the members and for the transacting of such business that will tend to draw them closer together in one fraternal brotherhood, and for the advancement of each other's interests. The Directors of the Poor of the districts of the State and those connected with the charitable homes and institutions inspired by the good they have witnessed in these meetings, meet in their Sixteenth Annual Convention, out of pure love of duty, not to enhance the condition of those who are living in affluence and wealth, or give prominence to any one in political or social circle, but that enable us to better discharge our duties towards our poor, helpless and unfortunate beings. And I appeal to every one here to have other motive or promptings of the heart in coming here, than to be his earnest desire to glean something that will enable him for the better discharge of the obligations he owes to these beings, and a more perfect consciousness of his whole duty. But there is a higher motive which should awaken in us a deeper sense of duty. It is for the Master's sake, for Christ's sake. We may view the solation of our souls from a selfish standpoint, as being the part of wisdom to escape the eternal wrath, or we may stand upon higher, holier ground and see only the wonderful beauty and love of a crucified Saviour. Do we admire heroism and humility, philanthropy and patience, sympathy and gentleness? In Christ alone is the perfection of all virtues.

When we meet one who daily walks with the blessed Master, we are sure to feel the influence of this pure, invisible companionship. It is for Christ's sake that God has received back into infinite love a lost world. "For Christ's sake" are the magical



words that down the ages have called forth the noblest efforts of the soul. The funeral pile no longer burns for its victim ; clashes no longer the crusader's sword, and the same banner, once trailed in the dust and besprinkled with blood, now sees in its shining letters not the emblem of war, but of peace. It is the little acts that make up life that God will count,—the cups of cold water, and the boxes of ointment. Let us let his beautiful example govern us, and his beautiful words be inscribed in our minds, "that our lips may speak no guile and our hands do the labor of love." They will be safeguards to us in the world, and open for us the gates beyond. Then, let us make this Convention more profitable and pleasant than any before. Again I thank you for this cordial greeting.

*The President:* Ladies and gentlemen: At your Convention held in Altoona one year ago, you did me the honor, much to my surprise, of electing me as your presiding officer. I had no opportunity of thanking you at that time for the kindness and the honor extended to me. I take occasion at this time, however, to return to you my sincere acknowledgments for the favor conferred, and I regard it as a very great honor, not only to preside over, but to be identified with an organization whose chief object seems to be to go about doing good, following in the footsteps of their Master. We are not here to-day as a political or as a religious organization. This Convention presents to my mind a rather strange spectacle. Here are Presbyterians, Methodists, Baptists, Unitarians, Episcopalians and other denominations of Christians of every name, and yet they are here moulded into one homogeneous thought and effort, without regard to denominational lines or professions or beliefs, engaged in doing the work that our Saviour assigned to his people in the world.

You remember that when the forerunner of Christ, John the Baptist, was in prison, hearing of the wonderful works of the Saviour, sent two of his disciples to Jesus to inquire of him whether it was he who was to come or whether they should look for another. The Saviour told the disciples to return and tell John just what they saw, how that the blind received their sight, the deaf heard, the lepers were cleansed, the dead were raised and the poor had the Gospel preached to them. Now, if our Saviour

assigned these as evidences of his Messiahship, do not we, his humble followers, when we try to wipe away the falling tear, when we try to comfort those who are in distress, when we clothe the naked, or feed the hungry, or visit the sick or those who are in prison think we are giving evidence of practical Christianity and legitimately following the example of the great head of the church, and may we not look forward with hope to the time when he will encircle our brows with a crown which, unlike the frail and fading garlands, this world weaves for her votaries, and which so soon wither and fall from the wearer's brow, will be celestial in its nature, replete in its fulness and eternal in its perpetuity, when he who shall sit upon the throne to judge the works of all men shall say to those who are upon his right hand, "Come, thou blessed of my father; I was hungry, and ye gave me to eat; I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink; I was naked, and ye clothed me, sick and in prison, and ye ministered unto me—come."

Friends, a convention engaged in such work as this should be cherished, should receive the attention, the thought, the effort, the energy of all who desire to lift up the fallen, to better humanity; and I am glad to see that this organization, now in its sixteenth annual session, has attracted and does attract year by year more and more thought, more and more attention. If you look at what was done for the poor, the distressed and those who were unable to care for themselves years ago, and compare it with what is being done for them now, you will see that we have made wondrous strides in advance in caring for them. But I did not and do not intend to make a speech. I thank you, ladies and gentlemen of the Convention, for the honor of presiding, and trust that by your forbearance and kindness and by my earnest desire to discharge the duties of the chair properly that we will be enabled to get along pleasantly and harmoniously, so that we may say when we shall leave this place, "It was good for us to be here."

It is exceedingly to be regretted that our able corresponding secretary, Mr. McGonnigle, is not with us to-day. I have just received a note from him saying that circumstances beyond his control preclude the possibility of his being present. He is most thoroughly posted in regard to the workings of these Conventions and of the institutions for the care of the poor all over the State. He has

usually cut out work for the Convention, and we shall be at a loss because of his absence. However, we shall endeavor to do the best we can under the circumstances.

Secretary Hunker presented the following programme of the business of the Convention :

Tuesday, October 21st, 1890, 10 A. M.—Call to order by President Graham, of Allegheny. Address of welcome by Hon. John B. Livingston, of Lancaster. Enrollment of delegates, appointment of committees, etc. 12 M. Adjourn to

2 P. M. Reports will be received from the various counties and poor districts of the State. 6 P. M. Adjourn to

8 P. M. A report of the work of the New York Custodial Institution for Feeble-minded Women, will be presented by Mrs. Anna B. Wilson. The aim of this institution is comparatively new, and this report of its operations will be the first that has ever been presented to the Association. It is with pleasure that Mrs. Wilson's paper is announced. Reports from the various Children's Aid Societies will be received at this session, and the general work of the Association discussed.

Wednesday, October 22d, 1890, 9 A. M.—Reports of committees and other business. A report of the work of the "Poor Law Commission," will be made by Commissioner Hill. This report will be of interest to every member of the Association. 11.30 A. M. Adjourn to visit the Lancaster County Almshouse, where the afternoon session will be held. Mr. Geo. Roney of Philadelphia, will present a paper on "Crippled and deformed children in almshouses—what shall we do with them?"

8 P. M. "The employment of inmates in almshouses under wages," will be presented by Mr. John S. Hope, of Chester Co. Followed by such other business as may be presented.

This programme is subject to changes as may be found necessary as to order, etc. The following topics have been presented for discussion at such times as may be found desirable and convenient during the sessions :

"The children's law,—what amendments can be made to have it more effective?"

"How can we have the assistance and co-operation of all the Directors of the Poor in our State?"

"In the admission to and discharge from almshouses, what regulations are necessary?"

"Charity organization,—how can we best utilize it?"

"Medical Out-door Relief."

Thursday, October 23d, 1890. On Thursday morning, it is proposed to visit the State Normal School at Millersville.

*The President:* The Secretary will now call the roll of the different districts, and the representatives for the districts or institutions represented in the districts, will please present their names, in writing if possible, to the Secretary, who will make a record of them.

The following delegates responded to the call :

ADAMS COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Aaron J. Rohrbaugh, John Dearsdorff, James B. Myers, Daniel Spangler, Wm. Arch. McClean.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny County Home*—Wm. H. Guy, Jos. T. Richey and wife, J. F. Robb, Wm. J. Glenn and wife.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny City Home*—A. Alston and wife, F. G. Bauer, Peter Bolster, Sr., Henry H. Phillips, C. Pappert, Jos. Staud, Jr., Simon McRoberts and wife, Wm. P. Hunker.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Pittsburgh City Farm*—George Linderman, George Hoffman.

BEAVER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Capt. Thos. Reed and wife, J. H. Ewing and wife, Dr. D. H. Hilman.

BEDFORD COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Job S. Barefoot and wife, Geo. H. Ickes and wife, Thos. Armstrong.

BERKS COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Isaac D. Whitman, Abraham Schlegel, Sam'l Z. Dick, Dr. R. B. Schultz.

BLAIR COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Alexander J. McKee and wife, Philip Young and wife, John A. Crawford, D. S. Brumbaugh, Dr. H. Hale Brotherlin.

CARBON COUNTY—*Middle Coal Field Poor District Almshouse*—Geo. W. Miller, A. S. Monroe, Geo. T. Wells.

CENTRE COUNTY—*Bellefonte*—James Schofield.

CHESTER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Jno. S. Hope and wife, Joel B. Pusey and wife, J. Preston Thomas, Lydia B. Walton, Mary M. Bailey, Sarah Connor, C. B. Swisher, Dr. W. R. Perdue, John J. Gheen, Esq.

CRAWFORD COUNTY—*Almshouse*—H. P. Marley, W. R. Lindsay.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Jacob Emminger, James Coyle, Michael Seavers, W. A. Kramer, Esq.



ERIE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Daniel Roberts, Benj. E. Ribbet, Henry Dunn, G. W. Mitchell and wife, E. P. Gould, Esq.

FAYETTE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—John R. Carothers and wife, C. W. Keefer, Johnson Carter and wife, Monroe M. Hopwood, E. L. Shipley.

FRANKLIN COUNTY—*Almshouse*—John A. Witherspoon, Thos. E. Fuller, Wm. Ferguson, A. H. Etter, S. M. Shillito.

INDIANA COUNTY—*Indiana Boro.*—J. A. McNeal.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Hillside Farm Almshouse*—Hon. Lewis Pughe, Mrs. Frances E. Swan, Chas. S. Fowler and wife.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Ransom Poor House*—Paul Bohan.

LANCASTER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Jacob S. Strine, E. H. Hershey, Wm. Good, R. W. Bard, B. F. Weaver, D. C. Kready, Geo. E. Worst, Dr. D. Frank Klucie.

LEBANON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Henry Smith, Wm. Carothers, Joshua Fernsler, Jac. A. H. Coyer, Sam'l Weis.

LEHIGH COUNTY—*Almshouse*—W. S. Guth, S. R. Engleman, S. A. J. Kern.

LUZERNE COUNTY—*Central Poor District Almshouse*—O. B. MacKnight, Abram Nesbit, Marx Long, Eugene N. Alexander, Ira Davenport, A. J. Bellis, Moses K. Eichelberger.

MERCER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—M. L. Alexander, John C. Allen, T. A. Robinson, John W. Byers and wife.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Henderson Supplee, David H. Ross.

MONTOUR COUNTY—*Valley Township Poor House*—John Hendricks.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Jeremiah Bauer, Mathias Buss, Herman Schmidt.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—*Rockefeller Township—Sunbury Poor House*—Geo. E. Kuebler, D. B. Foy.

PERRY COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Jacob W. Wagner.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Germantown Poor House*—John J. Crout, John G. Schuler, Alex. P. Keyser.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Blockley Almshouse*—George Roney, Geo. Milliken.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor House*—Geo. M. Shallcross and wife, Jacob R. Titus and wife, Chas. S. Snyder and wife.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY—*Alms house*—Geo. Heffner, Wm. Leininger, Thos. Tracey, W. F. Sheppard, Esq., Edward Kinney, Lewis J. Brown, Dr. Jno. V. Albert.

SOMERSET COUNTY—*Alms house*—J. M. Fike, Frederick Weller, John C. Miller, L. C. Colborn, Esq.

WASHINGTON COUNTY—*Alms house*—W. B. McKennan, John C. Sloan, D. W. Myers, Rev. R. C. Wolf, E. G. Cundall, J. W. Ross and wife.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY—*Alms house*—Alexander Tarr, Wm. D. Reamer, Lewis A. Weaver, J. R. Speigel, Esq.

YORK COUNTY—*Alms house*—James S. Bayley and wife, Dr. Z. C. Meyers, Mrs. F. S. Zinn.

STATE BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES—Cadwalader Biddle, James B. Scott.

PENN'A SOCIETY TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM CRUELTY—Geo. H. Smith.

PENN'A TRAINING SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN—Elwyn, Pa.—Dr. Isaac N. Kerlin.

SOCIETY FOR ORGANIZING CHARITY, OF PHILADELPHIA—J. R. Sypher, Esq.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—Philadelphia—Miss Cornelia Hancock, Homer Folks, Mrs. Rodman Wharton, Miss C. H. Pemberton.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENN'A—Mrs. Sue Williard, Indiana Co.; Mrs. A. Burr, Jefferson Co.; Mrs. Jas. R. Darragh, Allegheny Co.; Mrs. D. R. Harris, Lawrence Co.; Mrs. D. H. Wallace, Lawrence Co.; Mrs. M. P. Samson, Western Penn'a; Mary Bowser, Mercer, Co.; Mrs. J. R. Benton, Crawford Co.; Mrs. Richards, Venango Co.; Mrs. Streeter, Crawford Co.

CHESTER CO. CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—Lydia B. Walton, Mary M. Bailey.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE ON CHARITIES AND CORRECTION—Hon. James L. Graham, Allegheny Co.

COMMISSION TO REVISE AND CODIFY THE POOR LAWS OF THE STATE—Hon. Lewis Pughe, William Lawson, R. D. McGonnigle, Wm. N. Appel, J. Nevin Hill, Hon. D. Watson Rowe.

Mrs. Anna F. Wilson.

*The President:* The next business of the Convention will be the appointment of committees.

*Mr. Colborn* (Somerset County): I move that a committee of five be appointed on next place of meeting. Agreed to.

*Mr. Snyder* (Philadelphia): I would move that a committee of three be appointed to settle the Treasurer's accounts. Agreed to.

*Mr. Alston* (Allegheny): I move that a committee of five be appointed to nominate officers for the following year. Agreed to.

*Mr. Snyder* (Philadelphia): At this state of the meeting, I move that a vote of thanks be extended to the citizens of Lancaster, and to his honor, Judge Livingston, who made the address of welcome to this Convention. Agreed to.

On motion the Convention adjourned until 1.30 P. M.

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### AFTERNOON SESSION, 1.30.

*The President:* We will now proceed with the business assigned to this session, which is to hear reports from the various counties and poor districts of the State.

MR. McCLEAN, (Adams County): Adams County for the greater part, is an agricultural county, and by the last census has a population of 35,000 inhabitants. It never has had a greater number of sane and insane inmates in its institution than two for every one thousand inhabitants. Its present number of inmates is less than at any previous time in the memory of the present Board of Directors, containing but fifty-five inmates. The sane inmates are almost without exception the aged poor, and their present number may be said to have been decreased by a number of deaths from old age and a slight increase in the out-door relief. We have at present seventeen men in the male almshouse, a new building, erected in 1887, capable of holding seventy-five persons. The building was newly

furnished throughout when completed, and is heated by steam and contains bath room facilities. Twenty-two women are in the female almshouse, a separate building, and though an old building, is well taken care of. The steward occupies a third building, which, besides accommodating all the employes of the institution, is occasionally used by the poor. The insane asylum is our special pride, containing now seven male and nine females, the males being kept in separate cells on the first floor; the females on the second floor. The building is well heated, has a southern exposure and is as well ventilated as a building could be. We consider it a model asylum and are in constant receipt of expressions of approval of the people of the county, not only upon the institution, but also upon its management.

There is a farm of 240 acres connected with the almshouse, from which is raised the greater part of the supplies needed for the almshouse. The cost of maintaining the almshouse during the last fiscal year was in round numbers \$11,000. This was a reduction of about \$1,500 over the preceding year, a result partially accomplished by the economy practised and by a change of system of purchasing supplies in one or more directions, especially buying coal by contract from proposals asked for from local dealers. Besides the sum above expended, nearly \$3,000 was expended in out-door relief, an increase of between one hundred to two hundred dollars over preceding year. 218 persons received this relief in quarterly sums, seldom being less than three dollars nor greater than five dollars a quarter, or in the year not less than twelve dollars, nor more than twenty. We have no children in the almshouse. Those under seven, of whom there about eight, are boarded among farmers at an average cost of one dollar a week. Those over seven years of age are indentured, of whom we have about eighteen in the homes of good families of our county.

Last, and perhaps least, we have given shelter to 1,845 vagrants or tramps during the last year, to each of whom we have given two meals, supper and breakfast. They are not allowed to remain for a longer time, and the steward moves them along, so that we have no wintering inmates from such a class.

In conclusion, Adams County feels that it has good cause to congratulate itself upon the results of the past year, and asks the encouragement of the other counties of the State in their work that they extend to sister counties.

MR. GLENN, (Alleghney County Home): Our Home is erected on the line of the Washington branch of the Pan Handle Railroad,



ten miles southwest of Pittsburgh, and contains 205 acres. About 160 acres are under cultivation. We raise all the grain we use; excepting for flour we raise wheat enough,—about one-third of the amount we use. This year we have had an excellent crop of everything except potatoes. They are going to rot. We have at present 256 inmates in the Home proper, and at Dixmont, 161 insane. We have eleven children in charge of the children's Aid Society, seven in the Bedford County School, two in the Home for the Friendless. We have three Directors, who attend to their different districts, and our district consists of all the county of Allegheny outside of the cities of Pittsburgh and Allegheny. Parties wishing admission to the Home apply to one of these Directors, or to a justice of the peace, two justices sign the order, and they come with that order and are admitted to the Home. We then ascertain whether they are proper parties to be admitted to the Home, and it is often the case that they are not proper people. Sometimes we get Allegheny City people, sometimes Pittsburgh people, and occasionally from Washington County. Of course we return them to the proper parties as soon as we can and notify them, and to the credit of Pittsburgh and Allegheny City be it said, they are very prompt in sending us word if they have any people of our own under their charge. Speaking on that subject, I believe it is the only change in the law that I would suggest, if I was going to suggest any, that is, that something be done in reference to the residence of people who have to go to the poor house; to settle where certain ones belong. We have had some trouble in other counties, particularly some counties that haven't regular almshouses—county homes. When inmates come there we expect them to do what they can, and they are given such work as they are in our opinion able to do, and when they are ready to work enough to receive wages we think it is best for them to go out and go to work for themselves. We do not pay any wages.

In the matter of out-door relief, the Directors in the different sub-districts of our County Home district see about what it needs, investigate the case, and if they think it is a proper one, and it is better to tide the person over, they give out-door relief from ten to four dollars a month. They do not want to go over four or six dollars a month. Last year we expended about five thousand five hundred dollars in out-door relief. Our Home is in good working order. We are getting along very comfortably, trying to do the best we can.

*The President:* The Chair would announce the following committees :

Committee on next place of meeting :—L. C. Colborn, Somerset County ; John Witherspoon, Franklin County ; David H. Ross, Montgomery County ; W. H. Guy, Allegheny County ; E. P. Gould, Erie County.

Committee on Auditing :—Charles S. Snyder, Philadelphia ; H. H. Phillips, Allegheny City ; T. A. Armstrong, Bedford County.

Committee on Officers :—A. Alston, Allegheny City ; J. M. Fike, Somerset County ; G. M. Shallcross, Philadelphia ; Alexander P. Keyser, Philadelphia ; Wm. Arch. McClean, Adams County.

MR. ROLSHOUSE, (Allegheny City Home): I do not know that I have any very special report to make. It is only going over the ground we have gone over in our conventions in former years, but for the information of those who are present who probably have not been with us at some of our previous conventions, I might make a few remarks with regard to our Home. It is situated on the Allegheny river, about nine miles from Allegheny City, on the Western Pennsylvania Railroad, and we have in the farm ninety-six acres of land. It is principally tillable and productive, and our crops this year were all that we could desire. We have 245 inmates in the Home. Out of that number I might say there are about 102, the probably 104, who are insane. Our work on the farm and around the institution is principally done by our inmates, assisted and governed by those who have charge of the different departments. There are gentlemen in the Convention who have visited our Home, and they are pretty well aware of how it is managed and conducted. We try to treat our people in a way that they deserve to be treated ; we try to do the best we can for them under the circumstances, and we have succeeded for several years back in having entire control and harmony throughout the institution. We have, I think, four children in the Home to-day, three of them are quite young ; one of them is a little blind boy about four years old. He would not be in the institution were he not blind. We keep no children in our institution over two years old. The Children's Aid Society has relieved us to a great extent in this line, and I hope it will in the future. The children who are there at the present time are, with the exception

of this boy, with their mothers, and under the present circumstances they would not give them up. I might also state that we have a chapel in our almshouse, and it is comfortable. We have a chaplain who comes every Sabbath and preaches to our people—they usually turn out well. In the last almost ten years that I have been connected with the institution I do not know of a single Sabbath that we have missed having religious services in our chapel. Our Home and its surroundings are pleasant; we have had some new buildings in the last year that will add a great deal to our improvements and to our facilities for doing work.

MR. LINDERMAN, (Pittsburgh City Farm): I am here representing Mr. Hoffman of the city of Pittsburgh. Our department has done somewhat different from others. The whole department of charities is under the head of one man. As Chief of the Department of Charities he has the appointment of all officers in the department of charities. He appoints the Superintendent of the almshouse, with power to appoint his subordinates, and the chief of that department is under a salary and under bonds to the city of Pittsburgh for the sum of one hundred thousand dollars.

Our farm is located on the banks of the Monongahela river, eight-and-four-tenths miles above the city of Pittsburgh, which has been lately sold. They are now looking around for a new site to locate a new home and asylum. The farm was sold for some four hundred and twenty-one thousand dollars, sufficient money to purchase another farm without levying one dollar tax on the city. Since the department has been under the present management the expenses have been reduced considerably. The inmates have been reduced in the last four years from 502 in the almshouse and asylum together to 383, at present in Dixmont 123, making a total of 506, which reduction can be accounted for by the prosperous times we have had. We have been raising all the supplies for the home, such as vegetables and grain outside of wheat, all these having been raised on about 127 acres of ground under cultivation. The expenses of this department have been reduced some ten thousand dollars a year. We give you an invitation to examine into our institution. We have been looking for you for some time to visit us. We have been visited regularly by the State Board of Charities. In regard to the case of children and out-door relief, Mr. Hoffman will give you some information.

MR. HOFFMAN (Pittsburgh City Farm): I cannot say anything very new on the out-door relief question. We have refused considerable



In years gone by we have spent for out-door relief twenty thousand dollars. It does not cost us now over twelve hundred dollars. We have about four indentured out whom we visit every six months. We always give them out according to their religion—Catholic children go to Catholic families, Protestant children go to Protestant families. I cannot give much more information.

MR. ARMSTRONG (Bedford County): We have in our county almshouse 175 acres under our control, with a valuation of the properties of sixty odd thousand dollars. We have there in the house sixty-nine inmates; in the out-door relief we have sixty-five. We have at the insane asylum six; at Elwyn we have four. The almshouse is located about four miles south of Bedford. After a very close inspection, within a brief period, the Department of Charities has pronounced our almshouse to be one of the finest and best almost in the entire State under the management of our present steward. Everything there, so far as we know, is conducted properly, and doing the very finest, so far as we know, and in the very best condition. I do not know that I can make any recommendations or suggestions except making these few itemized statements.

MR. CRAWFORD (Blair County): It is about one year since this Convention met at Altoona. At that time it visited our almshouse and had the opportunity of seeing the workings of our institution. We have now fifty-six persons in our home; two children in the school for feeble-minded at Elwyn. We have one blind boy at Philadelphia; we have thirty-six insane in Danville and Harrisburg asylums, eight at Danville and twenty-eight in Harrisburg. Our out-door expenses for relief last year amounted to \$2,335; for our insane, \$3,335. Our total expenditures for the county last year were \$11,201.10. The products of our farm this year will be about 4,000 ears of corn and 600 bushels of wheat, 600 bushels of oats, 400 bushels potatoes, 75 tons hay, with an abundance of vegetables, cabbage, etc. We have regular preaching service every two weeks, in the afternoon. Our farm contains 267 acres. I would like to ask the gentleman here from Pittsburgh, how they got their out-door relief down from \$20,000 to \$1,200?

Mr. Hoffman (Pittsburgh City Farm): We do not extend relief to tramps and able-bodied people, but only to widows and children.

Mr. Wells (Carbon County, Middle Coal Field Poor District): I was not aware when I left home that it required any report



from the different counties, consequently I did not come prepared. We have one of our directors here, and perhaps he can give you some statistics. I am not prepared to do it. I do not know anything about the workings of this Association, and consequently the only thing I came here for was to learn something. I hope to hear something from some of these older persons.

MR. SWISHER (Chester County): We have 365 acres of land, situated six miles west of West Chester, our county seat, and our population in the house is 172; eighty-one females and ninety-one males. We have seventy-seven at Norristown and seven at Harrisburg, and seven children at the feeble-minded school at Elwyn. We do not keep any children at the house over sixty days; the Ladies' Aid of the county takes care of them, and does it very nicely.

MR. LINDSAY (Crawford County): One year ago when we met at Altoona we made quite a report. You will find it on page eighteen of last year's report. We have 236 acres, mostly tillable land. We have about a hundred inmates in our County House, consisting mostly of old and infirm people. We keep no children there, but depend upon the Ladies' Aid Society to procure homes for them. We find from experience that it has been a great help to us. They take a great deal of pains in procuring good homes and looking after the children after they are placed in the homes, to see that they are properly cared for, clothed and schooled. We have 112 in the insane asylum at North Warren, which institution is now full. The last report I had from there showed that they had 784 patients. The institution, I believe, is one of the best in the State of Pennsylvania. We have a few children at the home for feeble-minded children at Elwyn, but we have to cross the whole State to take them there. We find the expense is very great. We would like to have some place in the northwestern part of the State of Pennsylvania where we could place such children. There are a good many such children in our county that should be in such an institution, but the home at Elwyn is full. One thing that is troubling us a great deal is to decide the place that the pauper belongs, what county he belongs in. The law does not seem to be very definite in this. One county will construe it its way and the other county will construe it differently. We have been very fortunate in getting the matters decided between us and neighboring counties without any difficulty, but we have several matters now between us and the adjoining counties that I am afraid will some time lead to trouble. One matter has been lingering along.

for years. We had one matter in court years ago that went to the Supreme Court before we got it settled. ' These matters are vexatious, and I think there should be something definite about the habitation of the pauper, or it will lead to difficulty between the counties. We find that pauperism is on the increase with us. Insanity is very much so. Probably in the last year we have increased our number at the State Hospital about twenty or twenty-five, which would be a very large increase for one county. Our County House is now, or will be when the cold weather comes, full. We will have to increase our capacity. We think we have as good a superintendent as there is in the State, and our people there are as contented as you will find them anywhere among that class. It would be a very difficult matter for us to give definitely the cost *per capita*. A great many of the people we take as out-door relief are widows with children whom we are helping along until their children get grown up. We paid out last year over ten thousand dollars out-door relief. It is made out on the order of two justices of the peace and on the personal visitation of one of the poor directors.

MR. KRAMER (Cumberland County): Our almshouse is situated about one mile east of Carlisle, in the Cumberland valley, which is noted for its beautiful country and landscapes. Our institution is regulated by a special act of Assembly and was incorporated in 1829. A very fine farm was purchased and the old mansion house of the farm was transformed into an almshouse and a wing built on it. This building has become quite old. Then about twenty years ago a new building was erected for hospital purposes, but it has failed somewhat, because it is not supplied with all the appliances that a hospital should have. We have now in our institution about ninety-nine inmates, forty-five in the old building, fifty-four in the new. We keep the aged and the sick in the new building. Our supplies are given out the first of the year by contract and we have samples returned to see that the goods furnished by the contractors are up to the quality of the samples. The supplies are all first-class. The expenditure of the institution has been reduced during the past year, I think, somewhere about in the neighborhood of fifteen hundred dollars. The total amount drawn from the county was fifteen thousand dollars, and a balance returned of fifteen hundred dollars. Our out-door aid amounts to about twenty-five hundred dollars a year. We have our county divided into nine districts, and we have reputable citizens of the county interested in this work investigate into the merits of each case in their particular district. The board

always carefully examine into the cases, and the lists are prepared by the secretary and sent to them with a check for the payment of of the out-door aid. We have no insane in our institution. The Pennsylvania State Hospital is about eighteen miles from Carlisle, and we send them there. I think we have about seventeen, ten females and seven males. Our insanity has not increased during the past year. The number of those cured is about the same as the number that has been sent to the institution.

MR. DUNN, (Erie): Erie County has a population of over 80,000. We have one almshouse, located about three miles west of Erie city, near the Lake Shore Railroad. It was originated and is still governed under the Act of April 8, 1833. That is, it is managed by a board of three directors who hold their regular meetings the first Tuesday in each month during the year, when all business is done that requires the attention of the whole board. We employ one steward and matron at a salary of one thousand dollars per annum. The number of inmates for the present year will average about 185. Seventeen of these are imbeciles, which are kept in what was formerly used for the insane women. We also have, in addition to these, fifty-three insane at Warren Hospital, which makes a total of 238. There are at Warren Hospital about sixty-five more from Erie County, which are kept by the County Commissioners. Insanity seems to be on the increase, the hospital for this end of the State is about full. There will certainly have to be more buildings erected or each county will have to provide for part of their insane at home. We have but five children under our charge; they are kept at the school for feeble-minded children at Elwyn. Whenever we have children under our charge, we take them to the Home for the Friendless, and hire them taken care of there until the ladies having charge of the institution find homes for them. And I must say that the ladies take great pains to find good, Christian homes for these poor unfortunates. Our city is very proud of this institution.

We have in our almshouse a male and a female hospital, with a paid nurse for each; also an attendant for the imbeciles. The cooking for the inmates is done by a paid cook. The cooking formerly had been done principally by the inmates, but we find by experience that the paid cook more than saves his wages. The heating and lighting is principally done with gas. We have, in addition to the buildings, 140 acres of land, all tillable; we employ one farm hand as overseer; the work on farm is principally done by the inmates; we raise about one-half of the wheat that is consumed in the house,



and nearly all the potatoes and vegetables; we raise our own pork and some beef; it costs about \$1.50 per week for each one we keep in the almshouse; we give outside aid to a great many families, principally widows and children; we give from two to six dollars per month, and in extreme cases more; we help them to help themselves; we investigate all cases before giving aid; many families, through misfortune by sickness or otherwise, would suffer if outside aid were not given, and by helping them a short time many of them take care of themselves. The expense of caring for our poor and insane last year was \$31,690.00; about one-half of this was given for outside aid.

MR. HOPWOOD, (Fayette County): The Fayette County Home is located one-and-one-half miles west of Uniontown, on the national turnpike. It is reached by three railways, two divisions of the Pennsylvania and the B. & O. Our institution has new buildings with all the modern improvements and appliances, as many of you know who were there with us at Uniontown two years ago. As the State authorities have stated, the Fayette County Home stands at the top of the Homes of the State, and we are proud of this. Under the old administration of Mr. Carr it was brought to a very high standard, and under the present administration of Mr. Carter we still hold that standard, and are trying to advance, if possible, beyond that. Every year we aim to have some feature, some new idea, if we can grasp it, and in this way we strive to attain a high standard. The past year we have put up an additional building for corn-cribs, wagon-sheds, etc. Our improvements have cost over one hundred thousand dollars, and we have the mountain water supplied by the water works. We have the natural gas for fuel, and all of the bathing and lavatory appliances that any Home could ask or desire. In this respect we are equal to any in the State or country. We keep the sexes separate; we have in our Home at present 150 inmates; the insane we keep at Dixmont; we have there twenty-four; we have at Elwyn three children; out-door relief fifty-five; of course, many of these are widows, and the children we know not of; perhaps there would be more than a hundred all told if we did know, but we have fifty-five on the list. In our county, which is in the great Connellsville coal and coking region, we have a considerable foreign element, and a majority of our inmates are foreigners. Many of them are of a criminal type, some, unless we are careful in regard to them, would bring noxious diseases to the Home. We have a case of that kind now, and I would like to ask those with older heads and more experience what they do in the case where physicians would not go, and yet they



ask relief for that person, a person suitable only for the pest-house? Our children are provided for by the Ladies' Aid Society. They care for them readily, and get for them good homes. The cost of running our institution during the past year has been in round figures \$23,000. The population of our county, in round numbers, is 80,000.

MR. ETTER, (Franklin County): Our almshouse is located near the center of the county, a mile-and-a-half from Chambersburg, on a farm of nearly 200 acres of land. I would say in this farm there are about 160 acres of available land. There is a great deal of swamp and brakes there. The running of the farm and the purchasing of all supplies are in the hands of the matron and steward. A physician is employed by the year for medical attendance. Out-door medical attendance is rendered by physicians throughout the county, and their bills are paid by the treasurer under certain rules adopted by the directors, and approved by the court. The out-door relief is distributed by the treasurer of the board from lists each month and approved by the directors. The number of our inmates at the almshouse range from 100 in the summer to about 165 in the winter. The average is about 148 and a fraction. Our expenses for the year ending Dec. 31, 1889, were \$17,115.52, of which \$5,995.28 was paid for indoor expenses, that is, for the expenditures of the poor house. \$611.39 for farm expenses, such as harvesting, etc. The farm is run by one paid man to superintend it and by inmates. There is so much of that work we have to go outside to hire cradlers. \$2,131.98 for salaries; \$7,700.28 for out-door relief, Children's Aid Societies, physicians, hospitals, etc.

We keep most of our infirm and insane, or those who are affected to a small degree, in our own county house. We have a hospital attached, but our violent insane and those who are curable, or supposed to be curable, are taken to Harrisburg. I do not know the number at the hospital now, but some four or five. Our Childrens' Aid Society takes all our children. We have only one or two crippled boys there, and we keep them there because they are an object of charity and incurable. In our Children's Home we generally have from fifteen to twenty children, entirely, when they get there, out of our control and under the administration and jurisdiction of the Aid Society. The county directors of the poor pay \$1.75 a week for their maintenance. They get homes in the country as fast as they possibly can. I cannot tell you exactly how many boys and girls we have out, but quite a number. The girls seem to be wanted as quick as

they are eight or ten years of age. We have no trouble in getting the girls off. At present we have sixteen or eighteen children there at \$1.75, and I think we have two or three at Chester, under the administration and jurisdiction of Mrs. Pemberton. Then we have five children at Elwyn. I believe that is all the children that we have. Our miscellaneous expenses were \$676.59, repairs, etc. These expenses are for a county with a population of sixty or sixty-five thousand people.

We have a building for the steward and his family separate from all others, where the directors meet to transact business, and the physician's office is in the same building. We have a large three-story building, where all white inmates are slept and fed. On the first floor is our men's sick-room, where all those requiring the services of a nurse are kept until they are thoroughly convalesced. We also have the chapel on this floor, where religious services are held every Sabbath afternoon by a regularly elected chaplain. On the same floor we have our cooking done by one of the inmates and conveyed to the upper floor by the means of dumb-waiters. We have on the second floor the women alone, which prevents the intermingling of sexes. This floor also contains sick-room for women, sitting-room, dining-room and sleeping apartments, all under the supervision of a competent person, whose business it is to see that all the apartments are kept clean, well ventilated, and that proper decorum is maintained. The next floor is the same, except it is occupied by men. The lower floor sick-room is entirely for men, and the second floor sick-room entirely for women. Annexed to this building we have our hospital for men above, and for females below. We have four bath-rooms in this building, supplied with hot and cold water, and each inmate is required to bathe once a week in the winter and twice or more in the summer. They have access to these as frequently as they desire. We have our own system of water supply. We have a tank that will hold from 100 to 120 gallons, and it is supplied from a spring by a hydraulic pump, and which can also be used in case of fire. We had a great deal of trouble before in pumping the water by means of a hot air engine. Our inmates like the new arrangement very much. An old gentleman came to me one day and said, "You don't know how good we feel about that well. It gives us such nice fresh water." We heat our hospital by hot air, the balance by stoves. We give all who die a Christian burial, the chaplain being required to officiate at all burials, which are attended by friends of the deceased and inmates of the institution, unless the remains are removed by friends, which is always permitted when

desired. We give our inmates proper meat and vegetables, and if there is any meat or vegetables left from dinner they are prepared for supper. The breakfasts and suppers are generally light. We have bread, butter and syrup for breakfast, or some substitute, as the case may be, we raise entirely our own vegetables. This year we have raised more vegetables than we wanted. We raised 1,306 bushels of wheat, 316 bushels of oats, 1,260 barrels of corn, 650 bushels of potatoes, 100 bushels turnips, 30 bushels of tomatoes, 40 bushels green peas, 28 bushels beets, 5,000 heads cabbage, 42 loads of hay, 32 loads of fodder, and 2,000 bushels of lime burned to put on the farm.

*Mr. Ross* (Montgomery County): The gentleman tells us that he gave all those who died a Christian burial. If Franklin County is in this State, how do they escape from paying the penalty attached by the State law for not forwarding the bodies of unclaimed inmates to the medical college.

*Mr. Etter* (Franklin County): We have never been asked for the bodies. I think the law covers only the unknown. As I understand the law, it applies only to the unknown dead.

MR. FOWLER (Hillside Home, Scranton Poor District): Without referring to the location, ownership, capacity, etc., of the "Hillside Home" of the Scranton Poor District, say that we have buildings that are spacious, commodious and well equipped, with all modern conveniences for the accommodation, care and comfort of the inmates of the insane and almshouse departments.

Improvements have been made during the year as follows:

*First.*—A brick building 20x32, basement story containing large patent refrigerator for fresh meats, and creamery for milk and butter. The room overhead for the storage of ice.

*Second.*—Brick building 18x25, known as the electric plant, containing a forty-horse power (tubular) boiler, a thirty-horse power engine and dynamo, with capacity of 400 sixteen-candle power incandescent lights.

*Third.*—Brick building 24x46, known as the bakery, with rotary oven and all other utensils required. The capacity eight barrels of flour per day.

The frame building known as the "Men's building" has been moved, repainted, and is in all respects in first-class condition. These and other improvements have been added at a cost of over \$12,000.



In the almshouse department the average number of inmates cared for during the year ending October 1st was 135, an increase of thirteen over the previous year.

In the insane department the average was ninety-six, an increase of six for the year. At present there is 103 in this department, under the charge of Dr. Andrew Strang, with four male and four female attendants. At no time are the wards without one or more attendants in each.

The *per capita* cost for the year 1889 for maintaining inmates of the almshouse and insane departments, including food, clothing, fuel, light, medicines, board of all employes, salaries, etc., was \$1.92 per week.

Importance has been given to the fact that it was for the physical benefit, as well as for the interest of the district, that employment should be provided for the subjects in our care. Hence for those who were physically able to perform manual labor, the same was provided and required of them.

Religious services are now held in the hall each Wednesday morning by the Catholic Church, and on Sunday in the afternoon by the Protestant (Methodist and Presbyterian).

*Mr. Alexander* (Mercer County): I would like to ask how they get the religious services, and in what way.

*Mr. Fowler* (Hillside Home, Scranton Poor District): Three hundred dollars was appropriated at the commencement of the year, one hundred and fifty to the Catholic Church and one hundred and fifty to the Protestant. It was intended at first to divide this sum between the Methodists, Presbyterians and Baptists. We found, however, there was so few Baptists among the inmates, that we determined to divide the one hundred and fifty between the Methodists and Presbyterians.

*MR. BOHAN* (Lackawanna County, Ransom Poor House): Our district is known as the Ransom Poor House District. This district was established by Act of May 8th, 1857. It comprises Jenkins, Pittston and Marcy townships; Pittston, Hughestown, Avoca, Yalesville, and Laffin boroughs in Luzerne county; Lackawanna and Old Forge townships in the county of Lackawanna, covering an area of sixty square miles, with a population of fifty thousand. The assessed valuation of property in this district is a trifle over four million dollars; it is all coal land, and that which is unimproved is assessed from sixty to one hundred dollars an acre, while the actual value of



some of this land would fall little short of twenty thousand dollars an acre. The conclusion might be, therefore, arrived at that the property, both real and personal in this district, might not be less than fifty million dollars. Our tax levy this year amounts to twenty-four thousand dollars. Owing to many causes, we will not collect more than four-fifths of this amount. Our home for the poor is not located in this district.

We have 250 acres of land five miles north of Pittston, on the Lehigh Valley railroad, where our home for the poor is situated; 175 acres of this land is cultivated, and the other seventy-five acres is partially wood land.

Our principal building at this home is of brick, 206 feet long, 40 feet wide, and four stories in height, including the basement, with all modern improvements. The larger portion of this building is new, and as yet unoccupied; after a few weeks, however, this portion will be tenanted.

We have at this home fifty-six inmates, two-thirds of whom are males and one-third females. About one-third of those people are partially demented; they are all well cared for and kindly treated. The insane, which are the only able-bodied inmates, are all employed daily; have all the quiet and liberty that's possible, and make no trouble that any visitor could notice.

Besides those at the home we have twenty-seven inmates at the Danville hospital. We gave out-door relief during our last year to ninety-seven families. As we are limited to \$2,500 on this outside relief, each person's portion had to be made very small.

Our land and buildings are estimated at sixty-five thousand dollars. Our personal property and other assets, including taxes and other debts due to our district are in value but little short of twenty thousand dollars. We don't owe more than ten thousand dollars beyond our regular current debts.

The State officers, who have from time to time visited this home, have always praised it for its order and cleanliness.

We have a steward and matron. Three girls, two teamsters, and one man who takes care of and directs the insane who are employed as our hired help. Yet all that are able to work are daily engaged in some kind of labor. This order of business is doubly beneficial, owing to the products derived from their constant employment, and from the quietude produced by these people being thus employed.

MR. KERN, (Lehigh County): Our almshouse is situated four miles west of Allentown. We have a farm of 250 acres, every acre

under cultivation. Products last year, 1,500 bushels of wheat, 800 bushels of rye, 4,600 bushels of corn, and 1,200 bushels of oats, and all the vegetables we needed. The present number of inmates is 210, 80 female and 130 males. Average number of inmates, 245. We keep no insane at our institution. We have at present thirty-six patients at Norristown, three at the Elwyn Feeble-Minded School, and eighteen in the care of the Children's Aid Society, for whom we pay \$1.75 each per week for maintenance. We have three directors. The county is divided into three districts. The directors investigate cases applying for out-door relief, and try to find out whether they have means themselves, or whether the county is entitled to care for them. We give from \$1.75 to \$7.00 per month.

MR. MACKNIGHT, (Luzerne County, Central Poor District Alms-house): The district consists of one city of 45,000 population, ten boroughs, six townships. The board of directors consists of eight persons appointed by the court for a term of five years each. The farm contains 145 acres, about 90 acres being under cultivation. We have 130 inmates. The men and women are kept in separate brick buildings, with a residence for the steward between them. We have about 150 insane at Danville that cost us \$1.79 per week. The tax levy is four mills. The cost of the insane is about \$13,000 per annum. We give a small amount of out-door relief in necessary cases. We have thirty acres of wheat and rye, and raise an abundance of vegetables. The population of the district is about one hundred thousand.

MR. ALEXANDER, (Mercer County): We are hardly prepared to make much of a report, but I would like to say a few words on the outside relief plan which comes under our immediate notice. We have about 365 on the out-side road. That is, not that many families, but that many persons that are relieved during the year, including women and children, old men, and so on. It costs us about six thousand dollars. The out side relief is made up mostly of widow women and their families, old people that have become crippled and, on account of old age, are not able to make a living, but can get along with a little aid, and it is better than taking them to the house. A great many of our people have a dread of the house and do not want to go there. We accommodate them whenever we can, particularly if we can keep them out of doors cheaper than in the house. We frequently relieve or help able-bodied men out-doors where sickness or accident comes their way, and step in and help

them. We have a great many old people that are infirm and worn out, and haven't a sufficiency to maintain themselves. We have a large manufacturing and mining country there, and we have a great many people that are getting old; they are there to stay, and they have got to be helped, consequently we help them outside if it is cheaper to do so, and let them stay outside. We have about twenty-seven insane at the Warren Asylum, costing us something over three thousand dollars a year.

*A Delegate:* Is the out-door relief included?

*Mr. Alexander (Mercer County):* Out-door medical relief is not included in the estimate. That is not included in the six thousand. We pay a little over two thousand dollars for doctors' bills outside. I would like to say, to be fair with the Ladies' Aid Society, that they help us wonderfully in getting rid of our children who come on the county.

*MR. ROSS (Montgomery County):* While we admit that Montgomery Almshouse is the banner almshouse of the State, we regret that we haven't a very fine report to present. We are situated about midway between the upper and lower end of Montgomery County. We are reached by both the Pennsylvania and Reading railroads. We have a fine large farm of 298 acres, nearly all of it, excepting a large natural growth, under cultivation. We have the necessary amount of stock to do the work, and we raise enough on our farm to feed our inmates, with the exception of wheat. We are compelled to buy flour. We have all the improved farming machinery, much of it running by steam, and adopt every appliance to lighten labor. We have 173 inmates. We have as high as 400; our average heretofore has been from 150 to 400, or an average, I should say, of a little above 200. All of our children are at present in charge of the Ladies' Aid Society. We have some nine of them. We have eight children at present at Elwyn. We have no insane at our almshouse who can be admitted to the hospital. All of them are at the Norristown Hospital. We pay in out-door relief \$6,000 a year, exclusive of out-door medical relief. Our average cost for inmates in our county is \$1.85 *per capita* per week. We take considerable pride in our almshouse. We have a very large brown stone building, nicely appointed, and all of the modern conveniences excepting electric light. We have steam heat, and changed from hot air to steam thinking it healthier and more easy to manage, and easier to get a proper distribution of heat. Our hospitals are not in good condi-



tion. I think in a very short time an improvement will be made in this direction, and a new hospital erected that will compare favorably with the almshouse proper.

There is one thing I would like to call the attention of the Convention to, and that is the question that we discussed some one or two years ago before the State associations. Inquiries were made as to how many of the directors of the different counties are providing chapels or places of worship for the inmates. We found that many of the almshouses in the State are situated a considerable distance from any house of worship, and the inquiry was started as to how many had made provision of that character, and if I remember right the percentage was small where provision had been made in the almshouse or close to it easy of access to the inmates of the homes. I was forced to confess that up to until one or two years ago we had no ample provisions of that kind. Since that time we have finished a chapel, plain but neat, very attractive, and if there is a doubt in the minds of any of the directors who represent a county not provided with a meeting place, a worship place for their inmates, if they will come to Montgomery county I think they will be convinced of the wisdom of at once taking steps in that direction. We have services every Sunday. We are happily situated close to a theological seminary, and we have a free supply of students, young ministers, and so on from the college, so that it costs our county nothing for that. We have but one service, however, on Sunday afternoon, at which time all the inmates irrespective of creeds or classes, attend, Catholic as well as Baptists, Presbyterian, and so on. We only laid down one suggestion to the ministers who attended there, and that was that they should choose for their texts those points upon which there could be no variance, no matter what creed any particular inmate had been following, so that they now have avoided all unpleasantness by just preaching Christ and those intimate texts to Christ upon which there can be no variance of opinion with those who wish to attend divine worship.

There is another question that is giving the directors of our county considerable trouble, and I know that this is a question that will come close to each director here, and that is the easiness of access to our almshouses. The time was, and probably is yet in many of our counties, when many able-bodied tramps could easily obtain an order for admission to an almshouse. The consequence of that, and there can be but one consequence, is the peopling of the almshouses by those for whom it was never the intention to house there—able-bodied men who could earn their livelihood if they were forced to do it. I think



that this is a question upon which the State Commission can make a great improvement over the present system. Our law has been to admit upon the order of a justice of the peace. Now, there is no responsibility attached to a justice of the peace so far as the management, the economical management of an almshouse is concerned, or in the expenditure of the public money for the management of the indigent poor, and if we can suggest some plan by which the directors themselves should admit, or designate some one in the respective townships who should have the authority to admit, we think the result would be a lessening of the population of our almshouses. It is much easier to prevent the admission of a pauper than to get rid of one so improperly admitted. We have gone as far as we can under the law, and if you will allow me, I have a short letter here that was prepared by our directors and mailed to each of the justices of the peace in our county. We have there over 125 townships, a large district, which cannot be covered by the three directors of the poor, therefore they are admitted on the order of justices. The letter is as follows:

"MONTGOMERY COUNTY ALMSHOUSE,  
Sept. 15, 1890.

To.....

*Justice of the Peace.*

DEAR SIR:

You are probably aware that during the Fall and Winter season our county is overrun with unemployed able-bodied men of the Tramp order who through persistent applications to Justices of the Peace, secure an order of admission to the Almshouse. The result is that in the Winter season, the Almshouse, which was founded as a home for the indigent, aged and poor of our county, is crowded with a class of people who are sufficiently able-bodied to be self-supporting. This results in a double evil; first, it decreases the comfort and accommodations that can be given to the old and decrepit inmates who are morally the wards of the county, and secondly, it largely increases the cost of maintaining the Almshouse, besides encouraging the thriftless habits of this idle class of humanity.

In order to carry out the designs of the founders of the institution and to further the interests of the taxpayers, the Directors deem it their duty to prescribe stringent rules as to the eligibility of persons who can be admitted to the Almshouse, and also earnestly request all Justices of the Peace to exercise their best judgment as to whom they issue orders of admission. Under no circumstances should young, able-bodied men, who are idle simply because they are too indolent to work, be sent here. Neither should any Justice of the Peace issue an order to any person who is not a resident of the township or borough in which he (the Justice) resides, or of whose circumstances the Justice is not personally conversant, but insist upon refusing the order of admission or send the applicant to his home township to secure the order there.

The Directors of the Poor earnestly desire the hearty co-operation of the Justices of the Peace in these particulars, not only with a view of decreasing taxation, but in the interests of the aged and maimed inmates, who, through no fault of their own, are a charge upon the county.

Very respectfully yours,

WILLIAM G. WRIGHT, } Directors of the Poor  
MORRIS Y. JOHNSON, } of  
HENDERSON SUPPLEE, } Montgomery County.

ATTEST:

DAVID H. ROSS, Clerk."

This may not have been necessary under the original law as passed applying to Montgomery County, which made it compulsory upon all inmates to have an order signed by two justices of the peace; that original law, I think, applies now to several counties, but it does not apply to ours. It was repealed, and the consequence is that through the weakness of human nature, you might say, almost any justice would rather issue an order than to be bothered with an applicant. As soon as the order is given he is landed on us, and probably it is a winter's home for him.

*Mr. Etter* (Franklin County): I understood the gentleman to say that they kept their inmates at a rate of \$1.85 *per capita*. Does that include the products of the farm?

*Mr. Ross* (Montgomery County): Outside of the products of the farm. A cash expenditure in addition to what we raise on the farm.

*A Delegate*: Do you bury the dead?

*Mr. Ross* (Montgomery County): We do not bury the dead. We obey the letter of the law. When one of our inmates dies, unless his body is claimed by some relative, I think that is the provision of the law, it is compulsory on our part to report back to the proper authorities. It is more unpleasant for us to ship a body off to the college than it is for the body, but we get around it as far as we can in this way, we do not make the applicant prove a very close relationship to the deceased. If they are under a strong impression that that person is related to them, however remote the relationship, they can take the body; but last year, under the law, we sent several bodies to the college.

*Mr. Smith* (Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty): Is there any law by which a person can be committed to the almshouse in your county?

*Mr. Ross* (Montgomery County): No, sir. We have no one there who wants to go to the almshouse very badly. I am speaking of those who want to go there, and who should not be admitted on account of their able-bodied condition and the ease with which they can get an order of admission from a justice.

*Mr. Smith* (Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty): Then, do we understand that the justices of the peace can send a man to the almshouse against the will of the directors?

*Mr. Ross* (Montgomery County): Yes, sir.

*A Delegate*: I will say that there is a State law which allows and compels a Director of the Poor to issue a commitment of that kind, provided that it has been sworn to before two justices of the peace.

*Mr. Biddle* (Board of Public Charities): The law provides that a justice may commit him, if he sees fit, to the county jail or the poor house or the workhouse. It further provides that it shall be the duty of the persons in charge of such place of commitment to provide employment to such tramp. I take it that under the tramp Act, if the justice committed him to the poor house, they would be obliged to receive him.

*Mr. Smith* (Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty): Does that apply to Philadelphia County, as well as others?

*Mr. Biddle* (Board of Public Charities): In that county we provide a house of correction, and the Act provides that tramps and vagrants be sent there.

*Mr. Gould* (Erie County): To explain this, Erie County is governed under a local law, but there are certain other counties that have the same provision. Any justice of the peace, upon the application of a pauper himself or some person for him in the county can make application, and the justice of the peace can commit him or give an order of removal to the almshouse. The Poor Directors are obliged to receive that person upon that order. They have a right to discharge from the almshouse, and that is the only relief they have. They are obliged to receive them.

*Mr. Alexander* (Mercer County): This gentleman stated that they are the banner county of the State. He must not get offended if we criticise him and ask him a great deal. We have a very good county and a very good house, and we have conducted it pretty fairly and about as well as any other county, we think. He was speaking of the orders being given to throw people on the county. What do you pay the justice of the peace for getting up an order and throwing a pauper onto the county or into the hands of the directors; are they paid anything for that?

*Mr. Ross* (Montgomery County): Not at all, sir.

*Mr. Alexander* (Mercer County): In our county the persons themselves can make application to two justices of the peace, or any person for them; an order can be gotten out for them and they are sent to the Directors of the Poor of the county, though in this respect they are not on the county until the directors approve of that order or reject it. They investigate the case, and if they think in their judgment it is a proper case for outside aid, or to be placed in the house, it is done.

*MR. WAGNER*, (Perry County): Our farm consists of 172 acres surrounding the house. We have sixty inmates at the present time, six insane at Harrisburg. One of those is at home now greatly improved, and I think is about well and perhaps will not have to go back. We have also one at Warren. We have no insane in the institution, and no children in the institution, except three feeble-minded and one quite small. The others are contained in private families. Formerly the directors have paid by the week to keep the children out of the poor house, but in the last two years we have got them out without paying into good, responsible families. We are saving now a little in that respect. Our out-door relief amounts to about \$2,500. Application for out-door relief must come before a justice of the peace making information, and the application must be signed by at least four substantial taxpayers, such persons as know the circumstances of the applicant, and if we are not sure that it is a *bona fide* case, we often look up and see in what circumstances the applicant really is before the application is approved, or before they are entered on the books. Our annual expenses, including everything, amounted formerly, two years ago, to about \$8,500. We reduced it some last year, and I think it will be reduced still more this year. The number of inmates are on the decrease; there are a few more than there was a year ago, but for several years they have been



decreasing. However, our out-door relief has been on the increase. We help to support ninety families now, and some of those would be a great deal better in the poor house, but they have a particular aversion to going there; we cannot force any person to go there, and we must not let them suffer.

*Mr. Crout* (Philadelphia, Germantown Poor House): Last year we built a new building costing \$8,000, with every convenience and comfort to the inmates. We have have about 45,000 population in our district. We have some fifty-four insane at Norristown.

*Mr. Smith* (Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty): Do you do anything in the way of the care of children in the Germantown Poor House?

*Mr. Crout* (Philadelphia, Germantown Poor House): We have no children in the institution.

*Mr. Smith* (Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty): Not in the iustitution, but under your care?

*Mr. Crout* (Philadelphia County, Germantown Poor House): All our children are cared for by the Children's Aid Societies, and I take pleasure in saying that they care for them elegantly. Our out-door expenses last year amounted to \$4,500. For our medical attendance we have a doctor to care for the inmates. We have a doctor subject to the order of the nine directors, to go wherever he is ordered. Application for relief is referred to a lady visitor, elected annually, who takes great pride in that matter.

**MR. RONEY** (Philadelphia, Blockley Almshouse): I would state for the benefit of those who not familiar with Philadelphia, that Blockley is situated in the southwest part of the city, and is easy of access by steam and horse cars. We have no out-door relief, with the exception of the fact that there is appropriated four thousand dollars a year for medicinal purposes. We have a population to-day of 2,800. Our population is on the decrease. There are four buildings, taking in a space of sixteen acres. We have besides that about twelve acres of ground, which is used for garden purposes, raising corn and other small vegetables. In Blockley we have in the hospital about a thousand people. In the out-wards, the poor department, we have about a thousand people. In the insane depart-

ment we have something about 925, but out of that number there sixty out on parole. The *per capita* cost of Blockley, including the expenses of the farm and everything connected with the management of the institution, will average for subsistence alone for the poor department from nine-and-a-half to ten-and-a-half cents a day. Including maintenance and subsistence for the poor department it will average fifteen cents a day; that includes the pay of officers and the entire expenses of the department, in so far as the poor department is concerned. In so far as the hospital and insane department is concerned, the subsistence would be about fifteen cents. On account of the medicines and special sick diet, etc., the maintenance counts up; it will average us about twenty-two cents a day, but on the average about twenty-five cents a day *per capita* throughout the entire institution. We have a corps of nurses, 100 female nurses. We have 48 male nurses in the insane department. We have a corps of doctors, resident physicians, of 20. We have a chief resident physician and we have two assistants to the chief resident. We expend for coal, which is included in the *per capita*, we appropriate \$22,000 for coal. All our supplies principally are bought on contract. The councils within the past week, upon the recommendation of His Honor the Mayor, have made an appropriation of \$225,000 for the extension of the insane department. We propose to build two wings to the insane department, and also a dining-room which will accommodate about 807 people, so that we feel that we are in a flourishing condition. Before another month we will have an electric plant. We feel that we have made wonderful improvements within the past few years, and we hope to be able to reduce our maintenance account to a very great extent. We will spend up to the first of the year about \$398,000. We feel that there is at least 1,560,000 people to provide for during the entire year. So far as the children are concerned, Mr. Wilson, who is a member of the Children's Aid, or who was, has rendered very valuable service to the institution. Mr. Milliken is the representative of the children's department, and I know he will give us valuable information.

(On motion Mr. Milliken was allowed the privileges of the floor.)

MR. MILLIKEN (Philadelphia): I would say as a preliminary remark to the statistics that I have to offer, and which will not occupy the time of the Convention many minutes, that we have no children in Philadelphia almshouses at all. There are two wards proper, and only two, that are appropriated for paupers, the out-wards for men

and out-wards for women, and in neither of those wards will you find a child at any time. You will find a few in the Philadelphia hospital. Last week, October 15, at the weekly meeting of the bureau of directors, the population of the children in and about the institution was as follows: In the surgical, medical and nervous wards, ten children; in the nursery department, that is, infants recently born and their mothers not yet prepared to take them out, and a few foundlings, there were thirty-five children. In the children's department, which is not included within the walls of the institution at all, but in a separate building outside, there were seventeen children. These children are not admitted inside the walls of the institution at all, unless they need treatment for contagious disease. The entire population of the children was sixty-two to sixty-five last week. That would be the average number of children the entire year in and about the institution. Outward boarding, we had at the Training School for Feeble-minded Children at Elwyn, eighty-nine. During the past year we had about ninety-three children paid for at the Training School at Elwyn, but two or three have died, and one was placed out with a family, leaving eighty-nine. Boarding in the care of the Children's Aid Society, fifty children; in Catholic homes, fifty-six children; the total boarding last week was 150 children. During last year, of the children placed out, indentured, bound out children regularly visited as the law requires, there were four boys from fourteen to sixteen or seventeen years old, who absconded. In one case the man treated the boy kindly, though he complained to me that he had too hard work to do. I suppose he had constant hard work, but I question whether the boy was not a little unreasonable. I think he was under very good influence, but was rather unreasonable. The others were placed in good, kindly, respectable families, but I think the cause of their dissatisfaction was that they were dissatisfied with the homes where they were placed, with no opportunity to learn a mechanical trade. I was amused a few days ago to see a case of a colored boy in a colored family, well treated, but he was not quite satisfied. "What is the matter, John," said I, "what would you like to do?" He said, "I would like to be a preacher." I said to him, "There is no objection to your preaching, if you think you can do good by preaching, and earning your living." I gave him that kind of advice.

I would say a word about the sources of embarrassment we had to face last year. Some of the boys, and girls too, who are sent out to boarding in homes, sometimes are diseased. The school directors in one or two of the districts of the State refused to admit these chil-



dren to the public schools. Those children were placed under the Children's Aid Society, and rather than to contest the point, the ladies had them removed to another district. It is a point that I think is worthy the observation of the gentlemen of the legislature who have the subject of State laws under their charge at present.

I would say in regard to the number of the children and the character of the children placed for training in the school at Elwyn, that the Philadelphia councils have always shown no hesitating liberality in increasing their appropriations for the support of these children from year to year. The appropriation made for the present year was for ninety children. We ask now for an appropriation of one hundred thousand, and I think if they grant that it will be well to pause for a few years.

I pay frequent visits to the institution at Elwyn, and can speak with decided approval of the condition of the children in all respects. We have a number of them there, both boys and girls, who have grown up to the critical age of maturity. There is an advantage in having those children placed there under training and receive what education they are capable of receiving, and many of them have shown considerable brightness. The intention of Dr. Kerlin, and I think it is a wise one, is to keep those children, young men and young women, under supervision, to prevent congenital idiocy.

MR. SNYDER (Philadelphia, Oxford and Lower Dublin): Our institution was incorporated in 1809, and is governed by a board of eight directors. We have 145 acres of land, with a large new building with all the modern conveniences, and supplied with water from a good spring below. The Holmesburg Water Works have erected a large plant on our lands, and furnish us with water free of cost. We have on an average thirty-four men, and sixteen women, and two children. We lodged 468 tramps last year. We collected in taxes \$9,213.38, and our receipts from all sources were \$14,172.26. We have one feeble-minded child at Elwyn. We have twenty-one insane at Norristown, costing us last year \$1,731.18. We pay out in salaries, \$900. We pay in out-door relief, \$1,424.40. I would say that we have refused a great deal of out-door relief. We used to pay a great deal for out door relief, but we have come to the conclusion that it is not a benefit to the poor outside. The institution is valued at \$45,000, and our indebtedness is \$13,500. We have no able-bodied people in our institution, only those who are not able to do anything or care for themselves. The institution is managed by hired help outside.



MR. SHEPPARD (Schuylkill County): Our institution is located about one mile from Schuylkill Haven. It is reached by two railroads in convenient distance, the Reading and Pennsylvania. The main building is ample and commodious, four stories high. There are two hospitals, one 80 x 38, main building, 90 x 45, and the other 30 x 60. There is an insane building, and about seventy-eight patients there at this time. Our institution has a resident physician. Direction is given as to food by him, and treatment of not only the inmates of the insane department, but also of the other departments. We have a farm there of about 260 acres, 220 under cultivation. The farm in many respects provides what is necessary for all the institution—enough vegetables. There is a shortage in flour about three months in the year, when it is necessary to purchase it. The potato crop as a general thing is sufficient. We have about three thousand bushels this year, but having the rot in the potatoes, it may fall short of that. Milk and butter is ample for the institution. We have considerable difficulty with out-door paupers. We are incorporated under a special act of Assembly, and are obliged to take care of the out-door paupers under that act, provided that the maintenance is not more than the maintenance in the institution. It takes some thirty thousand dollars for out-door relief fund. We would like, for instance, to have some remedies to prevent the dropping down on us a great many of those we think we might very well part with. We have all nationalities under the sun there represented, brought in upon us, it being a mining region and railroads being built through the county. It seems that when justices issue their order the directors have nothing to do but to obey and take the party who comes there under it. Our institution becomes crowded, and we have to take care of these people outside after the institution is filled. In that respect we try to enlarge as much as possible the treasury. The taxpayers must swear that the party is indigent, not only they, but the party himself making the application, and the two taxpayers must also make oath, and the directors may investigate the case, and it is very difficult then to get rid of a heavy expense. We have in our institution 400 inmates on the average. We have 110 insane at Harrisburg, three at Danville. At the Elwyn Home we have nine feeble-minded children; in Catholic homes in Philadelphia, eleven; in home at Pottsville, ten. No children remain in our almshouse; that matter is taken care of by the charitable people of the town by subscription.

MR. COLBORN (Somerset County): Our institution was incorporated by special law, which went into effect the first of October, 1846. The district comprises the whole county of Somerset. The farm contains 347 acres of land, about 200 of which are tillable. We have two large buildings, one of brick and the other frame. The brick building is occupied principally by females, the frame building by the males. Our asylum, which was built many years ago, the insane building, has been condemned by two grand juries in our county, and plans and specifications are now being made for the erection of a new building by next year. The improvements made during the year were painting and papering the main building, building out-houses and placing steam in the two buildings of the home. At the year ending the 31st of December, 1889, the whole number at that time was seventy-seven; admitted during the year, thirty; total, 107 in the house. Died during the year, eleven; sent to Dixmont, two; indentured, three; discharged, sixteen; total, thirty-two, leaving remaining in the almshouse seventy-five. Whole number receiving relief, eighty-seven; males, forty-two; females, forty-five. Amount of relief paid, \$1,079. Whole number of children maintained in private families, males four, females six; total, ten. Amount paid, \$213.66. Children in feeble-minded school, two; in the reform school at Morganza, three. Inmates to State hospitals for the insane, ten. Amount paid for their maintenance, \$445.97. Number of children indentured from the poor-house, forty-four. Entire expense of home, \$7,445.91.

MR. SLOAN (Washington County): Taking into consideration the nearness of the hour of adjournment, I shall occupy your attention but a very short time. In regard to Washington County Home, which is located in the extreme western part of our State, we will say that during the last year we are carrying a lower percentage of inmates both in the home proper and in the children's home than we have for the last ten years. The causes for this I am somewhat at a loss to give. One reason, perhaps, is that we are now receiving no violent insane; they are all sent by order of the board who control them into Dixmont; another is that we have been fortunate in securing larger homes, that we consider in every sense of the word homes for their reception. In regard to the financial condition of Washington county, we consider it sound; that is, that we are carrying our homes on little money. We have two interests in view, to care for the welfare of the inmates and the welfare of the taxpayers. The people of our county are satisfied, I believe. I notice that our meetings are bearing fruit, and that we

have got up an interest all over the State. Go west, east, north or south, or where you will, this subject has come home to the hearts of the people, and they are moving in the right direction, not only to provide for the temporal welfare of the inmates of these homes, but for their immortal interests. When I first attended the conventions there appeared to be very little interest shown in the immortal part of the inmates committed to the care and keeping of the Commonwealth. To-day, coming down along the line of history of the Convention, I find that in all departments in all the homes they are looking to that which will not only make them happy, but which is to their immortal interest. You, ladies and gentlemen, should not overlook this in your work of clemency, mercy and general benevolence, and we rejoice that we have enlisted the work of the ladies. They are helping the cause. It is a matter of congratulation to me what we have accomplished in that line. It matters but little how the welfare of the body is kept, and how we provide for the ills and wants of humanity, if we have no remedy, no salve for the soul. I rejoice that we can say that we are going onward and upward. This may be the last meeting of this body that I shall attend. I am glad that we are using properly the means and methods which God has put into our hands to relieve the wants of suffering humanity, not only here, but to turn their thoughts to that better home above.

In our home we are in a great measure getting clear of out-door relief, an expenditure that was heavy upon the people of our county, from the very fact that we have broken down in a great measure that prejudice existing in the minds of that unfortunate class to going to the poor-house. Our effort has been to make the poor-house a home, and we try to make those people feel that it is a home. In that way we have taken away largely the stigma of the poor-house, and that the efforts of the Directors of the State of Pennsylvania may go onward and upward is the sincere desire of the one who has the honor of addressing you.

MR. REAMER (Westmoreland County): I would say that we are not the banner county of this State, but we sit on top of the banner, with all respect to the gentleman from Montgomery. We have a home two miles and-a-half from Greensburg, on the Southwest Pennsylvania, accessible to many. We have 220 acres of land, 185 of which is under cultivation. We raise enough of everything to supply the home with the exception of about one quart of flour. We have a population of 112,000 people, 25,000 of which are the scum of the earth. They consist principally of Hungarians, Dagos or Italians. They cost us a good deal of money. Our building is 250



feet long. It is a three-story brick, with fire escapes and heated by steam. We have twenty-two head of cattle, five head of horses and thirty-five head of hogs. We have a Woman's Aid Society in Greensburg; we pay \$1.25 a head for children. We have twenty-one children in this home. We have seven children at the county home. We call it the "county home," not the almshouse or poor-house. We do not know what that is. We have one insane boy, one cripple, and five for which there is no room in the Aid Society's home. Our insane we keep at home; that is, the mild ones; the wild ones we send to Dixmont. Our doctors—the gentleman from Montgomery speaks about the doctors receiving our dead. We are not giving our dead to our doctors; we are afraid our doctors will get us. Of all the hard people who present hard bills, our worst foe is the doctor! Not long ago a bill was presented to us for cutting off a man's leg in ten minutes, only \$150.00. We do not pay such bills in Westmoreland county. It costs us about \$1.20 a head; this includes the outdoor relief. We have five directors, divided into terms of two to three years. This division is regulated by the political complexion of the county. We have working for us a steward, one farmer, one engineer and one physician. The work is done by the inmates of the home, excepting one hired farmer. We have 825 people on the outdoor relief. It costs us \$35,000 a year to run our home. We grant relief from fifty cents to \$2.50 a week. We are not very hard on our poor. I see some counties have got a report of granting \$2.50 a month. It must be like the gentleman there who raised 8,000 head of cabbage. We could not feed our poor on that many, with all respect to the gentleman. We have in the home 165, making a grand total of 990 that are dependent upon the people of Westmoreland county for their living. This is lower than usual. We have one thing in vogue now in our county, and has been for three years back, and it is a good one. We are not troubled with tramp paupers. True, they come to us, but when we get them we examine them, and if they are able to work we make them perform it. If they are old and destitute, we buy a ticket for ninety-three cents and send them to Allegheny county. (Laughter.) Or, if the destination might be in the other direction, we send them to Johnstown for 141 cents. What we feed in the cabbage line we make into sourkrout.

MR. GOULD (Erie County): I move that the officers elected for the ensuing year shall prepare printed blanks, asking questions, leaving spaces for the answers, to be sent to all the districts, to be filled out and submitted at the next Convention, so that we can duplicate the reports. Our reports are very interesting, but each



delegate reports only that in which he is most interested. I think we should have a report from every district that can be duplicated, to see the comparative conduct of the different districts. Agreed to.

DR. SCHULTZ (Berks County):

*Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention:* It affords me a great deal of pleasure to see so large a gathering here to-day, and my friend from Washington township has brought the thought into my mind which I think should be impressed upon every person here. He has said that this may be his last meeting, and in looking over this Convention I see that they are all old people with the exception of myself. Why are the young men not here to-day? We should have the young men take an interest in this organization. It is the young people who can encourage a thing of this kind.

I have come here to make a report in behalf of the Directors of Berks county. We have an almshouse where we can accommodate about 900 people. We cover an area of over 500 acres. We have at the present time over 300 inmates. Our children are all in the charge of the ladies. Our insane are in the hands of those who know how to take care of them, who have made the study of insanity a specialty. We send our insane to the asylums, where they belong. As far as the admission of tramp paupers is concerned, I would say that they are always first examined by the physician. The directors do not issue orders without the physician first examines them, and if the physician finds that they are sick, that they are incapacitated for work, that they are unable to earn a living and that they have no home, then he gives a card to the director, and the director then issues an order. That is the way we admit our inmates. We pay for out-door relief about \$8,000; we pay \$10,000 a year to the insane asylum, \$1,500 a year to the Ladies' Aid Society, and our annual expenses are about \$50,000. We have trained nurses connected with our hospital, and have a special hospital department.

MR. EWING (Beaver County): Beaver County Home is located on south bank of Ohio river, about three miles below Beaver. The farm in connection with it contains about 130 acres. The average number of inmates in the home last year was eighty-two. At present there are in the home forty-two males, thirty-two women, three girls, three boys. We have forty patients at Dixmont; four children at Elwyn, Pa.; five children at the Home of the Friendless, Allegheny City. Our home is heated and lighted by natural gas. Water is supplied from a spring of most excellent water, but the supply is somewhat limited.

During last year we built new water-closets. Repaired, painted and papered the old frame building, making eight additional rooms. There are in all thirty-two rooms in the building.

Bill of fare.—Breakfast: Bread, butter, coffee, fried mush, fried bread, fried potatoes. Dinner: Meat, potatoes, beans, cabbage, garden vegetables in season, bread, tea. On holidays turkey, chicken, cake, pie, etc. Supper: Bread, coffee, molasses, mush and milk. Meals are specially prepared for the sick and carried to them.

During the year past outside aid was extended to about 250 persons. The Board of Directors consists of three persons: Col. R. Walton, president; H. L. McKibben, secretary, and Thos. Reed. They each receive \$3.00 per day for their services. The board meets at the home the last Friday of each month, to attend to business transactions, inspect home and its inmates, stock on the farm, etc., and to give directions in regard to any work they may want done.

At present there is no water in the buildings, but arrangements are being made now to have it put in next month. As our water supply is not sufficient to force the water into the buildings, we expect to have a well drilled in which to put a windmill pump to pump the water into the cistern, from which it can be piped to the buildings.

Pauperism seems to be increasing slowly in our district. It is difficult to give any particular reason to account for this, as the effect of many causes tends to pauperism.

On motion, the Convention adjourned until 8 P. M.

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## EVENING SESSION, 8 O'CLOCK.

The President called the Convention to order.

THE PRESIDENT: The first business this evening will be the presentation, by Mrs. Anna T. Wilson, of a report of the work of the New York Custodial Asylum for feeble-minded women. The Convention is now ready to listen to that report.

## THE PROTECTION AND TRAINING OF FEEBLE-MINDED WOMEN.

It must be apparent to all those who are practically connected with any charitable work, official or otherwise, that there is at present no place in Pennsylvania where idiot and imbecile women are sure of being received and adequately trained and protected.

A few are now at the training school at Elwyn, some in insane hospitals, and some in houses of the Good Shepherd. In all these places they can be, and are, guarded and protected, but in each one, at the present time, only a limited number can be received. The large majority are in family homes and almshouses, where under existing conditions they are constantly exposed to dangers, from which it would seem to be the duty of society to protect them.

In the hope of gaining additional light on this very important problem, I have visited the only institution known to have this special object in view, that is, the "New York Custodial Asylum," of which I will endeavor to give you a brief description.

It assigns as its objects :

*First.*—The custody and maintenance of feeble-minded women of a child-bearing age committed to the asylum by the County Superintendent of the Poor, at the expense of the State ; or by relatives and friends at private expense.

*Second.*—The improvement of the mental, moral and physical condition of these inmates.

*Third.*—To provide a custodial home for the feeble-minded women that are found in the county poor-houses, to prevent a mis-association of the sexes, and an increase of this class of County and State poor.

Newark, Wayne county, New York, where the custodial asylum is located, is a very pretty, quiet town of perhaps three thousand people. It is three hundred and twenty-nine miles from New York city, and easily accessible by several lines of railway.

The asylum stands on a hill overlooking the town and the beautiful expanse of country surrounding it, the view from the institution being exceedingly fine.

It is conducted at present, entirely on the congregate system. The main building was originally designed for a theological seminary, and to it have been added in the last five years, an east and west wing. The east wing was dedicated in June of this year, 1890—when the institution was said to contain three hundred and ten inmates, and after some repairs, which are now in progress, have been completed. there will be room for perhaps seventy additional inmates. This will make accommodations for about four hundred, excluding employes.

The two wings are connected with the main building by long corridors, seventy feet long, roofed in and nicely finished and lighted. Back of the main building are the dining halls, with a chapel above them. This chapel or lecture-room will seat six hundred people. A kitchen and bakery are attached to the two large well-lighted dining



halls, and in the rear of these, but connected by a corridor, is a finely equipped laundry, also lately erected at a cost of ten thousand dollars.

The value of the whole plant, including forty acres of ground, is estimated at one hundred and fifteen thousand dollars. The buildings seem to be constructed in a most substantial manner; they are handsomely finished, but not extravagantly so.

The rooms are well-lighted, there being an unusually large number of windows, thus giving an abundance of air and sunshine.

There is a plentiful supply of pure spring water and numerous bathtubs; the buildings are heated by steam, and electric lights are now being introduced. There is neither fence nor wall around it, and the impression given is more that of a school than a place of custodial care.

I was received in the kindest and most open-hearted manner by the Superintendent and Matron, Mr. and Mrs. Willett, and indeed everyone connected with the institution took special pains to show me everything that would illustrate *their* system of caring for these wards of the State.

The inmates, of whom none are received younger than fifteen years, are divided into two main divisions: in the east wing are sheltered one hundred and twenty of those who are considered the most hopeless cases, of whom perhaps thirty are epileptics.

They were all wonderfully clean and neat, and were sitting in the bright sunshine amusing themselves or doing some task suited to their powers and looking very happy and contented.

The apartments of the superintendent and his family are in the central or main building, part of which is also used for dormitories; and in these and the west wing are sheltered the remainder, almost two hundred, and who are considered a more hopeful class.

I cannot speak in too high terms of the order, cleanliness and excellent ventilation throughout all the buildings and as a congregate institution, I should think it would take high rank.

The women are employed by turns in the laundry, the kitchen, the bakery, and the sewing-rooms, always under the protecting care of a responsible matron or attendant; the scrubbing and cleaning are also done by the inmates, and "wherever they can serve it is deemed wise to make them help."

There are twenty-eight female employes and attendants, two sewing teachers and two assistant matrons besides the superintendent and his wife, all of whom reside in the institution. There are only four



male employes, and they all reside outside the institution, and include the engineer and farmer.

I wish that I could record among those employed a woman physician, resident in the house, but let us hope this will be included in their future plans. They employ at present a male physician, who resides in the village.

In regard to education other than industrial, there is a well-trained gymnastic class, also a singing class, both taught by one of the excellent assistant matrons. The performers in these classes seemed to greatly enjoy the exercises; the singing was especially good, many of them having very clear, sweet voices.

There is a Sunday-school class of about one hundred and fifty, taught every Sunday morning by a lady who is employed in the house during the week. She was very enthusiastic about her class, and said her scholars surprised her many times by their quickness of apprehension. Divine service is held every Sunday afternoon by the village pastors, representing all denominations. There was formerly a week-day school taught also by the assistant matron, but this has been discontinued for the last two years, much to the regret of all concerned, teacher as well as pupils. They were compelled to discontinue it owing to the building operations, which invaded every part of the institution and created a necessity for greatly increased watchfulness. They hope to resume this school during the coming year.

There were many other details showing thoughtful care for the happiness and comfort of the women, but what impressed me very deeply and made me most hopeful for the future, was the freedom and confidence that existed between these women and those whose duty it is to protect and train them.

There was a parental and filial feeling quite remarkable considering the size of the household and the circumstances surrounding it. It was no unusual thing to hear the superintendent and matron addressed as "Father and Mother Willett."

The restraints were evidently reduced to a minimum; doors stood open and the inmates moved from room to room with quite a home-like freedom. I went everywhere I chose without an attendant and whenever I desired, had little private chats with those girls who wished to speak with me and give me their confidence.

This freedom could not exist if there were not such superior officers and employes, who are interested in and devoted to their work. Many of the inmates are passionate and hard to control, and yet they are governed almost entirely by personal influence. I was shown a

room in which those who are especially refractory are sometimes placed until they become amenable to discipline. They must, of course, resort at times to other measures of restraint and punishment, but the personal influence of those in charge is the strongest factor in controlling the inmates.

It gives me pleasure to be able to say so much in commendation of the work already done in the institution, but there are, however, some *grave* defects which are almost inseparable from the present absolutely congregate system.

It is impossible to make a proper classification where such large numbers are gathered together in class-rooms and dormitories; and the evils are very apparent which come from bringing new recruits from degraded homes, almshouses and Randall's Island Reformatory, and placing them directly in association with those who have had the advantage of years of training in the institution. There is also another phase of the work which is beginning to present serious difficulties; when the asylum was instituted the intention was to use it only for those cases supposed to be almost hopelessly idiotic or imbecile, to be in fact, not so much a training school as a place for protection and safe-keeping. They have gradually, however, had committed to their care those of a different class, whom Dr. Kerlin, of the Elwyn Training School, calls "high grade or moral imbeciles." Their condition is further described by the distinguished alienist, Dr. Hack Tuke, as "a mental disorder in which there is a loss or absence of control over the lower propensities, or in which the moral sentiments rather than the intellectual powers are confused, weakened or perverted." This "absence of control" can never be entirely supplied by any known form of education, but many of those who are afflicted in this way can be wonderfully strengthened and improved by wise and scientific training.

For such as these the present educational facilities are not adequate, and if such cases continue to be received and retained, the institution should in justice to this "high grade" class, extend its industrial and intellectual methods of training, and also adopt the cottage system in connection with the congregate. That the trustees themselves have realized this, is very apparent; and they already have many wise and practical plans in contemplation.

Mr. Silas S. Pierson, president of the board, said to me, he thought it very unlikely they would erect any more large buildings; future extensions would be on the cottage system.

They intended to build, as soon as the necessary appropriations could be obtained, a detached hospital; also two cottages, one of

which would accommodate fifteen or twenty, and a smaller one holding perhaps five or six inmates.

These new buildings would be used for the more hopeful cases, and those farthest advanced would be graduated from the larger cottage to the smaller one, which would be in every respect like a private family home with its house-mother.

Then if any were judged, after this gradual course of training, sufficiently strengthened to become self-sustaining they would be much better equipped to face the world than if they were sent out direct from the large institution.

In work of this kind it would also seem not only advisable, but very necessary to have a committee whose duty it would be to make examinations at stated intervals, of the advanced pupils at least, to see what their progress had been and to judge of their fitness to be discharged from further care.

It must always be that only a *very* small percentage would ever become capable of properly assimilating with the community at large, but if there were to be only *one* such case, a committee should exist for her benefit.

There is another point to which I should like to call attention and that is, the act which incorporated this asylum, and which reads as follows: "An Act to incorporate the Custodial Asylum for Feeble-minded Women, at Newark, Wayne county, New York, and to provide for the appointment of trustees and the purchase of buildings and grounds." Passed May 14th, 1885. Then follow directions as to how the trustees shall be appointed, how they shall manage and control the property and make rules governing the institution, and also how the State Board of Charities shall supervise it; but there is no direction that I can discover, about any legal or other process to be complied with, in placing persons within the institution and retaining them there.

Previous to the act of incorporation the Newark asylum had been under the management of the "State Asylum for Idiots" at Syracuse, and was considered a department of that institution. It may have been possible that another form of commitment was used at that time; but the present trustees use a printed request for admission, which is filled in by the Superintendent of the Poor of the county from which the applicant comes and gives name and age and states that she is in indigent circumstances. There is also another paper asking for full description of personal peculiarities, and any facts in her history, or that of her parents, which would throw light on the case. This is also filled in by a Superintendent of the Poor



and a physician and both papers are sent to the Superintendent of Asylum, who with its visiting physician, constitutes the Committee on Admissions. These include, I believe, all the formalities used in admitting any one to the institution, and are much less rigorous than those governing admissions to insane hospitals, around whose inmates the State has thrown greater safeguards.

It may be instructive at this point to very briefly give you a history of the events which awakened a widespread interest in the subject, educated public opinion and led finally to the establishment of this Custodial Asylum.

During the years 1874 and 1875, every almshouse in New York State was visited and an examination made of the individual inmates preparatory to making a report on the "Causes of Pauperism."

This was done by Dr. C. S. Hoyt, Secretary of the State Board of Charities, and presented with the annual report of the board, to the New York State Legislature, January, 1877. From a most excellent condensation of this report prepared by Mrs. C. R. Lowell, Commissioner for the County of New York, I make the following extracts:

"The examination has made it clear that by far the greater number of paupers have reached their condition by idleness, improvidence, drunkenness or some form of vicious indulgence. The number of persons in our almshouses who have been reduced to poverty by causes outside of their own acts, is, contrary to the general impression, surprisingly small.

"It is equally clear that these vices and weaknesses are very frequently, if not universally, the result of tendencies which are to a greater or less degree hereditary. The element of heredity enters so largely into the problem of pauperism that it should receive special attention. The degraded, vicious and idle, who, when in good health are always on the verge of pauperism, and who, at the approach of old age or illness, inevitably become paupers, are continually rearing a progeny who, both by hereditary tendencies and the associations of early life, are likely to follow in the footsteps of their parents. There are a large number of families throughout the State, which are kept together by public and private charity, the sole end of whose existence seems to be the rearing of children like themselves.

"It is in the highest degree contrary to sound policy to keep such families together; in fact, the sooner they can be separated and broken up, the better it will be for the children and for society at large. The line of pauper descent is very difficult to break, but



unless vigorous efforts are directed towards this end, the number of the dependent classes will grow in a constantly increasing ratio.

"Few persons who have not given detailed attention to the subject realize how much of vice and pauperism, idiocy and insanity is hereditary. It is believed to be the duty of society to take positive measures to remedy this evil. What forms these measures should take and how far the effort should be carried present the most serious questions which press upon the legislator. It is a subject to which little attention has hitherto been given, at least outside treatises on physiology, but the time is rapidly approaching when its importance will compel the attention of the moralist as well as the law-maker."

Mrs. Lowell goes on to say, "There are two classes of paupers to whom especial attention should be directed, the feeble-minded and idiotic, and those who are morally depraved and apparently incapable of reformation. These two classes are at present kept together in our almshouses and become the parents of future generations of paupers."

At the time of the Secretary's inquiries there were in the county almshouses 767 vagrants, 508 idiots, and 394 feeble-minded persons, including those of both sexes. A very large proportion of the women belonging to these classes were mothers, their children in most cases being illegitimate and idiotic. Then follow special cases cited from fifty different almshouses, but one of which I will read you, as they differ only in degree and not in kind.

In the Chautauqua County Almshouse—"Two brothers and a sister, aged respectively twenty-two, nineteen and sixteen years, all feeble-minded; the parents feeble-minded, and also five others of their children. A feeble-minded woman aged thirty-nine years came to the almshouse twenty-two years ago with an illegitimate child, since married; husband probably in some other almshouse. An idiot male, aged twenty-nine years, admitted when eight years old; grandfather pauper, father drunkard, and other members of the family paupers. A woman fifty-five years old, admitted when twenty-two as a vagrant, said to have been married, but the whereabouts of her husband is unknown; has been discharged from the house and returned repeatedly for the past thirty-five years, during which time she has had six illegitimate children."

Mrs. Lowell concludes by saying, "The only conclusion to which this fearful exhibit compels us is that the State should in the interests of humanity, morality, and economy, provide separate institutions for the care of the classes referred to; custodial asylums for

adult idiots and the feeble-minded of each sex, and reformatories for depraved and vagrant women."

When I remind you that a very similar state of things, such as is described in this report, exists in the almshouses of Pennsylvania at this time, I do not mean to censure the officers in charge of these institutions.

Circumstances and conditions beyond their control make it well-nigh impossible to prevent occurrences for which we are *all* to a certain degree responsible. The time has come, however, when we should no longer close our eyes to the true situation, that *grave* evils do exist in consequence of keeping the feeble-minded and vicious of both sexes together in our almshouses.

It is not possible under present conditions, either in the ordinary *family home* or in our almshouses, to give adequate protection to feeble-minded women, and whether we establish a separate custodial asylum, such as our friends in New York have done, or build cottages in conjunction with training schools for the feeble-minded, already established or about to be established, "we should always remember that in these cases, wise restraint is not unkindness but the truest compassion." Let us extend to the subjects of such custodial care, every proper legal safeguard, but humanity and economy both demand that we should provide some institution or system whereby they will be adequately protected and cared for and at the same time given every opportunity for education and industrial training.

Every feeble-minded person stands as evidence of the violation of some divine law, either physical or spiritual, and we owe a double debt to them because of their defrauded birth-right.

"It would be no want of love and interest," but rather an exceeding interest in their welfare, that would make us resolve to take measures to leave them no longer untrained and unprotected.

"Being unable to govern themselves to the extent required by the public good" and their own good, it is the duty of society, acting through the State, to govern and protect them.

*Dr. Schultz* (Berks County): I move that this convention extend its thanks to the lady who has just read the paper, and that the paper be spread upon the minutes of this association. Agreed to.

After the reading of Mrs. Wilson's paper, at the request of the Chairman, Dr. Kerlin, of the Training School at Elwyn, Pa., addressed the Convention. After complimenting Mrs. Wilson for the interesting description most discreetly given of the Asylum at

Newark, he said that he had been forewarned that a movement would be set on foot to petition the Legislature for the establishment of a similar Asylum in Pennsylvania, and believing that such a movement would be injurious rather than beneficial, he had dispatched two women, who by nature and experience were well qualified for the task, to visit Newark and remain long enough to fully comprehend the character of the inmates and the quality of work being done in that Asylum. These ladies, Mrs. Harriet Kerlin and Miss Emma Jackson of Elwyn, having prepared a brief report of their visit, he would submit it as an appendix to that already given by Mrs. Wilson.

### ON SEX-SEPARATION IN THE CARE OF IMBECILES.

New York has been the first State, in providing for its feeble-minded, to deem it necessary to place girls, because girls, in a distinct institution. This plan was adopted eleven years ago, for those above fourteen years of age through the activity of Mrs. Lowell, who thought she had discovered a need for the immediate establishment of an institution to protect innocent, weak-minded girls and "to house" those who had been made mothers.

At Newark, N. Y., we find to-day three hundred feeble-minded girls, seventy per cent. of whom, unacquainted with the experiences of illicit maternity, are thrown continually with thirty per cent. who have had such experiences and who are prone to garrulity upon their past adventures.

Innocent, and oft-times pure-minded girls, taken at the age of fourteen, the age prescribed for commitment to Newark, are deprived of all advantages of school discipline, because "to house the girls to keep them from harm's way" is the uppermost thought of the Board of Managers, and there has apparently been no time for other consideration. The force of paid help is necessarily large in an institution which considers its chief work to be *guardianship*; instruction, occupation and amusement, are of so secondary importance in the Newark idea, that they would have been utterly overlooked had not the practical heads and kind hearts of the present superintendent and wife, risen above the bias of the founder of the institution, who in giving counsel to a new officer



in charge, said, "Remember *to watch* the girls; do not leave them unguarded an hour or a moment; do not take your eyes from them." Good advice; but with nothing added, how limited its vision! The result of this spirit is, that to-day a large proportion of the girls are spending a greater part of the day in idleness. This condition exists because so limited an institution offers less occupation than a mixed one, where the amount of necessary work to be accomplished, proves even a better guardian for the busy girl than the close watching given to an idle girl in a "custodial" institution.

The evenings are listlessly spent, except on special occasions. waiting for an early bed hour, and a few of the low-talking girls cuddle together in a corner to rehearse their filthy tales, rather than listen to reading. These few when idle constitute a poison which contaminate the whole.

Entertainments from without cannot often be given at Newark because of the expense, and within there is not the variety of individuals as in a community of young and old, teachers and taught, male and female, to originate innocent pleasure, nor the healthful occupations which come to older and wiser girls, in caring for and amusing the younger and feebler. The wider foundation would lessen these many unfortunate limitations; It would be learned that boys and men belonging to the place would not create so great an excitement among the girls, as the occasional workman and the two or three necessarily permanent men about the premises; experience already proves this assertion; the combined institution can be so arranged that one class may be helpful to the other without danger to either, and both have increased advantages without proportional increase of expense.

Newark already finds difficulty because of cost, in engaging men to cultivate its fields, which could be so valuable if strong-bodied imbecile boys were working its crops under a supervision which can render the boys less dangerous to a community of girls, than the average independent workman.

With the full desire of the managers at Newark to do well and kindly by their girls, the complications arising from massing, because of sex, one small class of unfortunates are, after eleven years of trial, puzzling them to so great an extent that some of the most practical thinkers realize that the State may have been unwisely



hasty in separating its classes. Wilbur lamented Newark; Doren condemned Newark; Carson will not recommend Newark for any other State to follow. The parent institution at Syracuse, which might have fostered all grades, has become a school for imbecile children, who at fourteen years of age, if girls, must be sequestered at Newark, or at eighteen, if boys, sent to —?; where, New York has not yet decided.

This for New York; while in Massachusetts, California, Ohio, Illinois, Minnesota, Kansas and Kentucky, as well as in our own Pennsylvania, will be found communities of boys and girls from three years of age to sixty, the one of sixty as much a child as the one of three, living upon many acres, happy in a life which offers variety and advantages to all grades of imbecility; each helpful to the other; if among them chances to be an inmate who through the viciousness of her earlier girlhood has had her trouble, it is forgotten; and the fact remains that the method adopted in these States brings better results than the gathering into isolated institutions in different parts of a State, each peculiar class and age of imbecility. The mistake of accepting as a class distinction "the possibility of bearing children" and thus grouping together all girls over fourteen years of age, irrespective of mental grades and pure or impure instincts, is evident when a girl so bright that her care-taker fails to discover her imbecility is housed in a small family with "one unable to learn anything;" at Newark it is true the low grades are finally divided from the better grades, in dining rooms and dormitories; still the one thought concerning them is the possibility of maternity, and to prevent this calamity is the main, if not the only cause for their sequestration.

Has Mrs. Lowell of New York followed up the results of her institution at Newark, which was hastily urged upon the State, and which now, with a natural pride, endeavors to maintain itself as first established, although workers, having become practical thinkers, can see a future for Newark broader than the original conception. Indeed, with the limitations of space at the parent institution, and with the city of Syracuse encroaching upon it, may it not be possible that Newark with its broader acres and ample advantages may yet develop into a "general institution," regardless of sex and age. The growth of the need in our sister State will soon call for this natural development. Prevention of

motherhood is a most important consideration in the care of imbecile girls, but it must not be made so paramount that proper development and natural amusement are denied. "To be safely housed" is not the only obligation to the imbecile girl; and any State or organization limiting itself to the "custody" of such girls as we see at Newark fails to comprehend the demands of imbecility upon an intelligent community, and fails to use wisely the financial aid which legislators willingly give toward the prevention of imbecility, as well as towards its alleviation.

Great good is being done at Newark, and under the direction of an active Superintendent, and intelligent Board of Managers the place is steadily progressing; it will no doubt reach the highest development possible under the circumstances; but the fundamental principal is narrow, and its proper anxiety to *protect* may, by its prominence, suggest the evil which it is desired to bury.

In a community embracing all the elements of a home from babyhood up, the same protection can be extended less visibly, and the interchange of sympathy and interest between the many departments will satisfy that social nature which deserves recognition among the imbeciles of the world, as well as among the intelligent.

After reading the above paper Dr. Kerlin exhibited a large water color painting of the buildings and grounds at Elwyn, Pa., dedicated to the care and training of feeble-minded persons, without regard to age, sex or color, and energetically opposed the idea of any additional provision being made on any other basis in the State of Pennsylvania, believing that the theory on which Newark existed was unscientific, unnatural and unchristian; and concluded by saying that he would gladly unite with the members of the Convention in asking the Legislature for the establishment of a general institution west of the mountains, for the care and training of feeble-minded persons, that should be modeled after the noble institutions at Columbus, O., Lincoln, Ill., Fari-bault, Minn., Glenwood, Ia., Gelston, Cal., Frankfort, Ky., and our own Elwyn in Pennsylvania, but that he would as persistently antagonize a State asylum for defective girls and women, believing that to follow Mrs. Lowell in her experiment at Newark, N. Y., is unwisdom, the folly of which is already shown in the brief paper presented and read for Mrs. Kerlin and Miss Jackson.

*Mrs. Wilson* (Philadelphia): I would like to say that I agree perfectly with Dr. Kerlin's idea; that is, it recommends the Pennsylvania system to me much more strongly than the Newark institution, but I did not consider it in my paper, it was not part of my paper to recommend any plan, but I agree entirely with his plan.

*Mr. Roney* (Philadelphia County, Blockley Almshouse): I move that the remarks, report and appendix as read by Dr. Kerlin be incorporated into the proceedings of the Convention. Agreed to.

*The Chairman*: A report will now be received from the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania.

MRS. SAMSON (Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania): The Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania is pleased to be able to report reasonable progress in its work. The society has, during the year, organized auxiliary societies in five counties, namely, Greene, Forest, Elk, Cameron and Clearfield. Five auxiliary societies before organized by what was formerly known as the western branch, have become auxiliary to the western branch, namely, Beaver, Crawford, Lawrence, Indiana, Mercer and Venango societies. A society at Irwin, Pa., has become auxiliary, and county auxiliaries have been formed at Meadville, Crawford County, and Punxsutawney, Jefferson County. Making in all twenty auxiliaries of the western branch. There are strong committees in each one of these societies, and efficient work is being done. It has been demonstrated to the society that its usefulness has been greatly augmented by the increased number of societies which have become auxiliary to it. It has found that the old proverb, "in union there is strength" is a very true one, and it hopes that before very long time elapses its geographical limits will only be defined by the Allegheny mountains.

The central office of the society being in Pittsburgh, gives great facility for the transfer of children by those societies which have few children to be provided for, are enabled with ease and dispatch to receive them from other counties where there is a surplus of them. New life has been infused into the auxiliaries, by the plan of work (both as to the ways and means) devised by



the western branch, and it is hoped and believed that with increased facilities, more and better work may be done in the future than has been done in the past. The work at Johnstown commenced after the flood, and carried on during last winter, was partially discontinued through the summer. Up to June 1st there had been distributed among the needy there 320 yards of flannel, 47 pairs of blankets and 189 garments. In September the executive committee of the State Board decided as there would be many in need in Johnstown during the coming winter, and as business there had returned in a measure to its normal condition, the best disposition to be made of the balance of what is known as the Johnstown fund, is to place it in the hands of a committee of the ladies of that place, to be disbursed at their discretion, their purchasing to be done from their own merchants, and the committee to report monthly to the executive committee of the State Board, this plan has been put into operation.

The Society of Western Pennsylvania would say to the honorable gentlemen of the committee, that the need which is most crippling to the work of the society is a home for the feeble-minded west of the mountains, in which that unfortunate class of children and youth growing up in the western counties can be placed. The home at Elwyn is a grand institution, but from sheer inability to do more than it is already doing it cannot meet the needs of the west. Something should be done at once for this helpless class. The society during the past week has been asked if it could not obtain admission for six children at Elwyn and ten more within the same time have become known to the society to be in great need of its sheltering care. Another vexing problem is the care of incorrigibles, not always the viciously incorrigible, but oftentimes the lazy and carelessly incorrigible, the latter cases being often harder to provide for than the first mentioned class.

Received under the care of the society during the past year, 137 ; placed in homes, 125 ; returned to friends, 21 ; sent to institution, 9 ; out of the State, 2 ; died, 9.

*The President:* A report will now be presented from the Allegheny County Society.



MRS. DARRAGH (Allegheny County): We as a county are in our sixth year of actual work, trying to assist the State in the alleviation of pauperism, taking such as fall under our care and placing them in the family home; seeing them absorbed in the home life, hardly remembering, sometimes *not* remembering that they have ever been apart from the family in which they have become amalgamated; and thus we have our reward in knowing the good we have done in placing these little children, who had in most cases no greater heritage than a birth of shame, no broader outlook than a life of poverty and all that thereunto pertains; wards of the State; with the taunt of pauperism to be flung in their faces, all this is changed under the laws of the Keystone State. It gives those children to the care of these "Aid Societies." They find homes for them immediately. When the child is taken and placed quite young, it never can grow up with the sentiments that a child will who is reared in an almshouse. I am glad to know that all over the State the gentlemen who compose this honorable association, are coming to co-operate each year more and more with the aid societies; in some instances they tell us they comply with the laws by removing them from the almshouse to some institution; while this is to us a decided improvement upon the old plan of allowing them to remain in the almshouse, yet we think it were far better for the children; far better for the future of the State, that those children should be removed so far, and in such a way from the almshouse that they would know pauperism only as an intangible thing. We much prefer the family plan, and it surprises us constantly the number of people who are willing to take these little ones to nourish and care for, as their own dear ones; but there are two classes that puzzle the best thinkers of our Allegheny County Society. What shall we do with our feeble-minded children? They of course cannot be placed in the family home. By association and teaching it has been proven that their best points can be developed; we think the best and only place for these children, who can *rarely* become self-reliant, self-supporting citizens, is an institution such as we have at Media, which is in its operative effect most excellent; but it is already overcrowded, and the cry goes up from the entire western community that there is no room for our children at Media. We think Western Pennsylvania is sadly in need

of such an institution, and in behalf of Allegheny County I would take this opportunity to urge our want and need upon the notice of this Association, that they may recommend such legislation as will secure us this home for the care of our feeble-minded children. The next great puzzle is, when we get boys and girls of larger growth, whose only training has been among the slums, who have scarcely heard a good word in all their whole lives, much less been taught the beauties of a good life, whose whole idea of morality is to "beat about" and perchance evade merited punishment. What shall we do with these girls and boys, whose very presence would almost destroy the sanctity of the home life? It seems to us there should be some plan formulated for the temporary care of these *incorrigibles* to be sent into preparatory training for the home life. We have had several such cases where they were *too much* for any they came in contact with, and for their willful perversity in downright maliciousness they have been returned again and again, their actions in some cases almost meriting a State Reformatory. But then again, we think of how little opportunity these poor waifs have had; that perhaps if they could come under some preparatory training, where these faults could be kindly and firmly dealt with, that perhaps after a little while they would, at least a large percentage of them, come out all right, without the stigma of a State Reformatory, which to many is but a step removed from *State Prison*, and would of itself exclude the child from any chance of ever becoming a member in any home. This is an urgent want; we would like advice.

During the past year our society has received fifty-five children. Of this number we received from parents and guardians, twenty-three; Allegheny County Poor Board, twenty-three; Allegheny City, three; Humane Society, three; Homœopathic Hospital, one; other sources, two. We have placed in homes during this year forty-six children, some of whom were wards from other years. Total work since organization, 305. Of this number about 137 have been placed in homes, and in many cases we have given temporary assistance to parents to tide over a case of necessity. We are now working auxiliary to the Western Pennsylvania Children's Aid Society, and we think our treasurer's report will reflect creditably on the work of our county. Our outlay in one year, gotten by our own efforts and effective

co-operation, amounts to a sum equal to the State appropriation for the entire western part of the State, and we hope to do still better in the future. Our Allegheny County and Allegheny City Directors of the Poor, have ever worked in harmony with us.

The Homœopathic Memorial and West Penn Hospitals have generously treated our wards gratuitously. Many physicians have treated our little ones without remuneration. The officials of the different railroads have been uniformly courteous, and last, but not least, we have accepted the use of an office from the Board of the Dispensary Building in Pittsburgh, free of rent, we paying janitor's care. All these kindnesses are of moment to us, as every dollar saved in this way is a clear gain to our little charges. During the past year our treasurer, Mrs. J. T. McCance, reports that during the year from the different sources we received \$3,170.46, and disbursed \$3,100.68; a fair showing for one county.

*The President:* The Convention will now hear from the Crawford County Society.

MRS. STREETER (Crawford County), read the following report: Children's Aid Society, Crawford County, Titusville, Pa. Number of children under our care during the year, eleven; in temporary homes, six; adopted, two; returned to friends, one; sent to Reformatory, one; one under our care, being one boarded by its father, is a bright little boy eight months old, for whom we want a good home. We have two good homes offered for girls ten years old. We would here acknowledge the hearty co-operation of the Poor Commissioners.

MRS. STREETER (Crawford County): The reason this little boy was sent to the Reformatory was because he was incorrigible, and could not find any home.

*The President:* We will listen to Venango County next.

MRS. RICHARDS, (Venango County): Number of children under care since October, 1889, 25; from Greene County, 1; returned to friends, 4; placed at Elwyn, 1; placed in West Penn, 1; placed in homes, 17; died, 1; applications for children, 14; applications from other counties for homes for children, 6.

We have one child for whom we could not find a home—boarding in the country—the Poor Board pay his board. Our membership numbers forty-five.

*The President:* We will now hear from Jefferson County.

MRS. BAUR, (Jefferson County): Our society was organized one year ago. During that time we have had charge of nine children, eight of which have been returned to the mothers who are now able to care for them. We could not obtain suitable board in Brookville for one child six months of age. On this account our society sent it to Pittsburgh where we succeeded in procuring a permanent home. A number of visits have been made during the year in the interest of children. Clothing to the amount of twenty dollars has been distributed. Our Auxiliary at Punxsutawney was organized last March. The society has one child in charge and has made several visits to it. We have every reason to feel satisfied with our work of the past year, and hope to show still better results at the end of our next year.

*The President:* We will now hear from Indiana County.

MRS. WILLIARD, (Indiana County):

### CHILDREN'S AID REPORT, OCTOBER, 1890.

As the years roll on, and the aims and methods of work in the Children's Aid Society become better understood, we realize that the community around us is taking a deeper interest in our work, and scarcely a month passes without some little unfortunate waifs seeking admittance to our fold. We have now under our care fifteen children, some of whom have been rescued from the most abject and wretched hovels of poverty and vice, and placed in happy Christian homes. And some whose mothers are worthy women we are helping to remain in their own homes. We have many applications for children, especially girls, but are careful to investigate the character and circumstances of those applying, and often keep a child many weeks before finding a suitable place for it. We have the co-operation of the humane agent of our county, and the poor boards of nearly all the townships. Altogether we find that we are doing a good work, and hope and believe that future years,



and the eternity that lies beyond this life, will evidence many precious lives made happy and blessed by the efforts made through this noble institution.

*The President:* Lawrence County is now in order.

MRS. WALLACE, (Lawrence County): The Children's Aid Society of Lawrence County was organized in 1887. The Directors of the Poor cheerfully co-operate with us, and assist us greatly in our work. At this time we have fifteen children under our care, five have been placed in permanent, the parties taking them have legally adopted them. We are rendering assistance to eight children, one child is under treatment at the Children's Memorial Hospital in Allegheny City. Also one sad unfortunate case, a girl of but fourteen years, whose whole life has been blighted, and would otherwise have been an outcast, degraded forever—the details too revolting for mention—has received shelter and aid from us and is now being cared for by our society. We are gradually enlisting the interest of our citizens. Our physicians have treated our children free of charge. The press of our town have been uniformly courteous, inserting any matter we requested without cost to the society. While we have not raised any great amount of money, we have accomplished our work, and still have a balance in the treasury.

*The President:* We will now hear from Mercer County.

MRS. BOWSER, (Mercer County): During the past year we have found homes for eight children. We took from the Almshouse a little white boy of seven who had been there for two years and sent him to a good home in Tioga, where I believe he has since been adopted, also a colored boy about the same age who had been pronounced feeble-minded. He is now in a good home and is considered as bright as any other ordinary child. We have under our care one mother with her child. Also we have found homes for five others, we have assisted quite a number of parents and guardians in finding homes for their children. We have ten children in all under our care.

MRS. STREETER (Crawford County) then read the following paper :

### WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THE INCORRIGIBLES ?

The subject which has been allotted to me for discussion, ladies and gentlemen, is, as you are aware, one of the knottiest problems which modern philanthropy has to deal with. It is facing us squarely now as a Children's Aid Society, and presents itself as so serious an obstacle to our work, that we are forced to bend all our energies to its solution. Our organization, though so young in years, has proven itself already of such practical value in the world's work, as to command the admiration and hearty co-operation of all true lovers of their kind. The motto inscribed upon banner, "The family life *versus* the institution," has led us so often to victory, that we are in danger of making it a fetich, or allowing the phraseology of our doctrine to prevent our carrying out its spirit. In so far as our society has to deal with the normal child, it can carry out its fundamental principle to the letter, but present to it the child *abnormal*, in mind, body, or spirit, and it comes to a dead halt. "Now, brethren," quoting from a dear old Scotch Presbyterian whom I heard discussing the revision of the Catechism, "we don't want to be iconoclasts, but *don't let us be idolaters!* If there is any good in the "institution" which we have not, let us have it. Let us graft it upon our young and vigorous tree, infuse into it new life, and, perhaps, the leaves of the tree will be "for the healing of the nations."

The Reform School has been a large factor for good in its day and generation. But in this age we are called to higher things, and we have grown to see that in the herding together of so much vice—even for reform—there lurks the horrible power of propagation—so that the unclean spirit we had hoped to cast out may take to him some other spirits more wicked than himself, and the last state of that child be worse than the first. The germ of truth, however, which gave to the Reform School its right to be, still exists, and it is that which we must incorporate in our system before it can be a success in dealing with incorrigibles—and that is the necessity of *expert* training in the care of abnormal humanity.

We do not need any argument upon the subject in the case of the feeble-minded child. Why should we, when considering him whose *soul* is diseased, all of whose springs of action have been poisoned from his birth? To turn such an one into the right track—to overcome heredity and environment—to cast out a devil—surely demands as much wisdom, experience, tact and patience as does the “ministering to a mind diseased.” And what a return, if success crown the effort! A deadly parasite becomes a useful member of society,—a threatened scourge, a conservator of the peace—a child of Satan, a redeemed soul in the kingdom of God! Let us drop our shibboleths, then, and if the “institution” is needed within our borders, let us change or modify it if we will, but let us take all that is good in it and apply it to our necessities.

And now, if you will permit me, I will lay before you a plan which to me seems feasible for the solution of our difficulty, hoping that you will so thoroughly discuss it, that some tangible and practical result, however foreign to my idea, will be the outcome.

First, then: I would have each separate division of the Children's Aid Society maintain one or more regular boarding-homes, to be used as a place of transit, for the nursing of sick children, and the preparatory training of the ordinarily vicious. The cost of such a home in towns of the size of Titusville need not exceed an average of \$300 a year, \$100 paying for the rental of a house, and \$200 covering the board of one child for an entire year. These homes should be made interchangeable among the different auxiliaries. For instance, if the Oil City home should have had such constant demands upon it, as to go beyond its resources, while the treasury of Titusville or Meadville is comparatively intact, Oil City should be at perfect liberty to send her needy patients to either of these houses. And so on, through the round of the Auxiliary Societies of Western Pennsylvania. To the \$100 per annum allowed each auxiliary by the parent society at Pittsburgh, \$200 could certainly be added by any one of our organizations, and thus eight to ten trial homes be provided for an incorrigible before proceeding to any extreme measure.

Second: I would ask such an additional appropriation from the Legislature as would enable us to establish at three different points in Western Pennsylvania—the location to be hereafter discussed—homes for the expert training of incorrigible children, no

one of which shall ever admit over ten children at one time, and such homes to be under the immediate supervision of the Children's Aid Society. I would have such homes divested of all the machinery and red tape necessarily belonging to the ordinary "institution," and have them conducted entirely on the family plan, where the individual needs and peculiarities of each child are studied and appropriately treated. I am well aware that objections can be made to this plan on the ground of economy—but once give us a fair working trial and I do not fear that funds will not be forthcoming. For we live in an age, thank God, when a philanthropic enterprise has only to prove its practicability, and money is poured out for it like water.

I would like to say here that I have had suggested to me since writing this paper, that very soon the Legislature will have in its hands the money which has been devoted to the Soldiers' Orphans Homes, and it seems to me that it could not be diverted in a better direction than to the establishment of some such trial, expert trial homes for these incorrigible children, instead of sending them to these large reformatories. We have in our own town of Titusville the case of a little boy six years old who is called incorrigible. He is a child naturally attractive, he has a very bright face and is very prepossessing, so that anyone wishes to adopt him at first sight. He has been tried over and over again in different homes, and shows so many bad characteristics that no private family has been as yet willing to keep him, so that the last resort was to send him to Morganza; and it is a burning shame to the Children's Aid Society that a child eight years old has got to be heeded in with a lot of incorrigibles worse than himself for the sake of reform.

*The President:* A report will now be heard from the Chester County Children's Aid Society.

MRS. BAILEY, (Chester County), read the following report:

#### REPORT OF THE CHESTER COUNTY CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY.

We have been actively organized for six-and-a-half years. With a small handful of women we began operations in 1884. Now, we number 169 members, 153 are active, 9 are contributing



and 7 are life members. A few of the contributing and life members are men. We have 120 county children in charge at present, together with 50 supplementary cases. Thirty of our children are in free homes, 42 are indentured and several are in trial homes. The greater part of our supplementary work comes to us from Philadelphia, city and county. We have no doubt whatever of the advantages of the family plan over those of a permanent institution for the waifs, but we sometimes feel the need of a temporary or preparative home, where the lowest class of children may be kept for a time under judicious training, where they shall become rid of early contracted habits, which render them unfit to be placed in respectable families. Some such arrangement or provision would insure us better homes for many of these unfortunates.

Another hindrance to good results, and one to which your attention has been called by a previous delegate, but will bear iteration, is the remanding of children to parents of vicious character, after having been placed under judicious management and elevating influences. We feel keenly on this subject, having been thwarted in our work by several instances of the kind. One case especially may be mentioned, where a nice little boy in an excellent home, shortly to be indentured, was claimed by worthless parents and transferred to a den of thieves and gamblers, indeed into all that is vicious and depraving for our efforts is truly discouraging. What can we do? What redress have we? We hope at no distant day to see a law enacted which will protect us in this regard. Again, we unanimously disfavor the indenture system as it now exists. What shall be its substitution? The present law in this respect is rendered almost obsolete in our county, as we have been and are continually placing children for an indefinite period without indenture, and it has been our experience that many of the care-takers who thus desire to keep the child are of the best and most conscientious ones.

Perhaps the time is not far away when all methods of work in which woman is interested shall be improved by her voice being heard in the construction of the laws of our land as well as in the various important offices pertaining thereto. We appreciate the kindness of the Superintendent of our County Home, and that of

his worthy wife, as well as that of our Board of Directors, in lending us all the aid and encouragement in their power towards helping on with this benevolent work, and hope in time to reap the reward of seeing our children through their good citizenship benefit the community at large.

On behalf of the Society,

MARY M. BAILEY,  
*Vice President.*

LYDIA B. WALTON,  
*Secretary.*

*The President:* The Children's Aid Society of Philadelphia will now report.

MR. FOLKS (Philadelphia), read the following report:

REPORT OF THE CENTRAL OFFICE OF THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY FOR THE YEAR  
ENDING OCT. 1, 1890.

On October 1, 1889, there were under the care of the Society 344 children, of whom 241, or 64 per cent., were in free homes—188 in the country and 53 in the city; 113 were in boarding homes—90 in the country and 23 in the city; 16 were in institutions for temporary care and 4 in hospitals. One hundred and sixteen of these children have passed from our charge—52 returned to parents, 26 to relatives and friends, 35 to the Bureau of Charity, 5 have become of age, 5 have died (in the city, 1; in the country, 4;) 2 have been adopted, 1 returned to the Society to Protect Children from Cruelty, and one to a County Commissioner. During the year 100 new cases have been added to our list, leaving in our care Oct. 1, 1890, 348. Of the 221 in free homes, 117 are in the country and 44 in the city. It may be instructive to notice that one-fifth of the children placed in free homes remain in the city of Philadelphia. Many others are in smaller towns and villages. By no means are all sent to the farm. Ninety-three of our children are boarded in the country, 21 in the city, 1 is in a hospital, and 12 are receiving institutional care. In addition to this the best possible provision has been made for many other children by placing the mother at service where she

can keep and support her child. Five hundred and forty-six such situations have been filled during the year by women who came to us from the almshouse, from the hospitals and from the streets. The demand for such help is always greatly in excess of the supply, and the cost of conducting the department is little more than the salary of the official at its head. During the year 875 visits of investigation have been made to our children. All have been visited twice, some three times and some even more. Eight hundred and seventy-five visits!—how little can anyone who has not shared in the work appreciate the meaning of these words. Each visit means that an attempt has been made to estimate carefully all the forces and factors that make up a home; to ascertain the physical, mental and moral status of the child, and to determine whether the influences that act and react from one to the other are developing the best in each. Deducting Sundays and holidays, an average of about three such visits per day has been made for the whole year.

Our Society still forms the function of a Bureau of Information, as was originally intended by its founders. Five hundred and thirty-eight times information and advice has been given concerning the disposition of cases who have not come under our control. During the year we have received 528 applications from parties desiring to care for our children—100 children, 500 applicants. Being able to fill less than one in five of our applications, it is evident that we can exercise a great degree of care and discrimination in using only the very best. These applications have come without any special effort on our part. A very slight outlay in advertising would have deluged us with applicants. This is a most decided refutation by hard facts of the assertion made so often in former days that a sufficient number of satisfactory homes could not be found.

Our co-operation with the Bureau of Charity of the city of Philadelphia and the Poor Directors of Oxford and Germantown, as you have seen by their reports this afternoon, is an important part of our work as 55 of the 348 children now under our care came from these sources. Of the 100 children received during the year 37 were sent to us by the Bureau of Charity and 6 by the Poor Directors of Germantown and Oxford. In this work we act

simply as the Agent of the Department of Charities and Corrections of the city. Our work consists in finding boarding houses for the children and looking after their needs as to clothing, etc. While they are boarded they are visited by the Children's Aid Society and by the Visitor of the City Department. The free homes are found partly by the Society and partly by the City Visitor. As a typical instance of a large part of this work we might mention the care of a little foundling who was picked up in the streets of Philadelphia, in May, 1889. The child's age was guessed at 4 months. Remembering that a good name is said to be better than great riches the child was named after the wife of President Harrison. When brought to the office of the Society the child seemed to be in the last stages of disease. Its body seemed to be little more than a tiny frame-work of bones, and its face as one expressed it seemed to be little more than two large blue eyes. Every one who looked at the child said it cannot possibly live. A kind lady from the country very reluctantly took it to her home. Letters came saying that the child was still very ill. Several times it was thought that it could not live till morning. But it did live and grew strong and bright and handsome. A few days ago after being boarded less than a year and a half it was taken *on trial into a first-class home* with every prospect of becoming a permanent member of the family. The work of removing children from the almshouses of the State and providing for those who may become public charges during the year has been carried on in many counties with commendable earnestness by our county committees. The organizations of new counties and the rendering of assistance to those already at work has been greatly hindered by lack of funds and by several changes in the officials' force. We have been obliged to part with our former General Agent, Mrs. Anna T. Wilson, who has rendered such valuable and faithful service for many years. Miss C. H. Pemberton, who had charge of the State Work, has felt her sympathies specially drawn toward the large number of children who were being sent to penal institutions and has taken charge of our new Department for the Care of Juvenile Delinquents. We hope to prosecute vigorously this work of caring for the almshouse children of the State during the year that is before us through co-operation with our County Committees and Directors of the Poor of the various counties.



We are enabled at this convention to report concerning several children who were taken from various counties several years since and given into the care of the Central office. A few specific instances will best tell the story of these cases: In January, 1889, an agent of the Society found in the Cumberland county almshouse a boy of 3 years who was supposed to have a broken spine. He was unable to stand, walk or talk, and seemed to be growing up to a life of complete helplessness and nursing. He was removed by the Society to a city hospital where his case was pronounced hopeless, and in addition he was considered mentally so defective that he should be placed in the school for Feeble-Minded children at Elwyn. He was removed to another hospital where he gave some slight signs of improvement. After remaining here 6 weeks he was taken to Bucks county and placed to board at the munificent sum of \$1.75 per week, with a family consisting simply of a middle-aged blacksmith and his wife. The boy walks and runs with perfect ease. He has learned to talk and a physician pronounces him perfectly healthy and humanly bright mentally. He seems also to have a sunny temper and a very good disposition. He believes that his foster-parents are his real father and mother. They on their part have asked the Society for permission to adopt the boy as their own.

A very similar case is that of a little girl who came from the Lehigh County Poor Directors whose co-operation and assistance is most gratefully acknowledged. She was treated in two city hospitals for about 4 months. In January, 1888, she was taken to board by a childless family in Susquehanna county. She was wholly unable to walk and in many respects a great burden. Board was paid for her till December, a period of 11 months, at which time she was taken by the family as their own child. It was my pleasure to visit this child recently. I found her at play with a number of other children. She was running about with perfect ease, was dressed as nicely as any, and in all respects, the most attractive child of the group.

Another remarkable case is that of a boy taken from the same almshouse at the age of 8. One of his parents and a brother were decidedly feeble-minded, the other parent was partially so. The boy had been in the almshouse for years, he could not speak a

word of English, and avoided all communication with other persons. He was brought to the city and boarded 8 months. In December, 1889, he was sent to Susquehanna county and taken by a farmer to board. At the end of 6 months the farmer agreed to keep him without board. On a recent visit I found him neatly dressed, using English with ease, reading readily in the 2d reader. He gets 8 months schooling a year, attends Sunday school and church. The farmer said the only trouble with Johnnie is that when I set him at work he will work too hard, and expressed his desire to adopt the boy as soon as the Society would allow him to do so. It is a very remarkable fact that each of the these three children regarded as decidedly defective when left the almshouse have found permanent homes with the first country family with which they have been placed. Of course not all cases are as successful. One boy from Bedford county who came to us in 1889 has shown himself after being placed many times without doubt mentally defective and steps have been taken to secure his admission to Elwyn. Two other children have been taken there during the year.

But is it not wise since so large a proportion have turned out well to give each young child a chance, to show what he can do under the most favorable surroundings.

Two little German girls were taken from a northern county. Their mother was very immoral, and these children, though very young, were regarded as exceedingly bad, they had known no home but the almshouse. They were placed with two childless families in Susquehanna county. A recent visit finds them very promising and attractive children, believing with childish simplicity that they are with their real parents, and as well treated in every way as if such were the fact.

The members of the Convention may remember that in that excellent paper read by Mr. Leslie at the Convention of last year, mention was made of a child who had been returned from fourteen homes. This girl had spent the first nine years of her life in an almshouse not of the highest grade. The reports of her from the homes in which she was placed were, "She is untruthful, dishonest, malicious, bad tempered, vulgar in speech, and with decided immoral tendencies." In a Reformatory in which she was placed two months, she was regarded as slightly insane.

Since May, 1888, this girl has been living with a widow lady of great force of character and tact. The girl is improving in every way; is very fond of her new mother, and obeys her implicitly. The obvious conclusion from this experience is that it is easy to deal with a homeless child if you get him soon enough. But we must say that these children, who have spent a very considerable time in an almshouse, are our most difficult cases. It is easier, and we say this deliberately and from experience with both kinds, to deal with some children who have been arrested and convicted of burglary, but who have been reared in some sort of a home, than it is to deal with those who have never known what home means.

It is with regret that we learn that some of the Poor Directors of the State have not yet been brought to see the advisability of the boarding-out plan. We fear that some of these friends feel that the plan of actually paying hard cash to a private family for the board of a child is confined largely to the State of Pennsylvania, and especially to the ladies of the Children's Aid Society, who in common with all other women are somewhat liable to what a recent writer calls the "hopeless tyranny of an idea." It is, therefore, with a real satisfaction that we notice a general advance during the past year in nearly all civilized countries of the system of boarding out. The fourth annual report of the "British Association for the Advancement of Boarding-out," gives some interesting information on the subject. In Scotland in 1889 nearly every child chargeable to the rates was boarded in a family, a total of 4,987 children. In Ireland, 2,623. In the Australian colonies it is the prevailing method. In Queensland 302 children were boarded; in South Australia, 459; in Tasmania, 107. In Berlin the number of children in boarding homes April 1, 1890, was 4,055; in Vienna, 971. In France its use is almost universal, and its success has become historical. In England the custom is becoming more and more prevalent. There are at present 144 board-out committees, corresponding in a rough way to the county committees of Pennsylvania, authorized by the Local Government Board. If you ask why the plan of boarding out is coming into general use, we answer that it is because it is the method which least antagonizes and most co-operates with nature. Nature has made the home a training-school. Philosophers and scientists alike



tell us that the source of all moral feeling, the root of all moral life, is in the family. But natural processes always need a certain amount of supervision and re-adjustment by human hands to accomplish the ends man desires. Friction produces waste. These homeless and untrained children must be placed by human hands under the influences of those natural forces from which they have been torn away. Can a child who is not born into a family become by some new birth a part of it? Does the family unit possess the power of taking into itself and incorporating into its being foreign elements? The nurseryman can take a twig from one sort of an apple tree and graft it into another, and it becomes an integral part of the new tree. How far can we carry the *grafting process* with the family, which is a living thing in so much higher a sense than is the tree? The flow of sap that feeds the life of the tree flows readily into the new branch. To what extent will the currents of confidence and affections that nourish the family life be able to pass into this new member? Experience enables us to say that under favorable conditions it does so almost perfectly. I must say that coming into this work an entire stranger to its methods, it has been a revelation to me as I have visited these children, to see the strength of the ties that have been formed so easily and so quickly. It inspires one with new confidence in human nature to see such exhibitions of pure benevolence among all classes of people. Only those of you who have visited a considerable number of such homes can appreciate the heartiness of the welcome extended to the homeless child, the readiness with which the mother love claims it as her own, and the completeness of its absorption into the family life. But our grafted apple tree always bears two kinds of fruit. The character of the new branch always remains that of the tree from which it was taken. Here the analogy between our processes ceases, and a new fact comes to our rescue; the fact, namely, that the higher the grade of life the more complex the organism, the more responsive is it to a change of surroundings. Here we meet the whole question of heredity, which is so often brought as argument against the family plan, on which we make three general observations:

1. The facts of our experience show that if we get the child soon enough, the force of heredity can in most cases be overcome, or so



far neutralized as to produce no bad results. Many of our most promising children come from least promising parentage.

2. Of all natural forces the most eccentric and liable to freaks is heredity. It is the little oddities and peculiarities of the physical, mental and moral make-up that persist while the broad, general features yield themselves pliant to their environment. Or a trait disappears for several generations, and then suddenly reappears. Such an incalculable element should hardly deter us from giving the best chance possible to each child.

3. If the force of heredity is stronger than we suppose, it only narrows our field in one direction to extend it in another. If we can reclaim fewer cases, the results of our work are conserved for a longer period. Unless human character is absolutely unchangeable, we cannot excuse ourselves from putting forth our best efforts. It is the strength of the conviction that has grown in our minds of the truth of these principles as demonstrated by our actual experience, that has led us to undertake a new line of work, or rather to lay a new emphasis upon a certain phase of our former work, namely, the caring for great numbers of children of tender years who have been brought before magistrates, police courts and judges for various petty offenses, and heretofore sent to penal institutions, there not only to associate with genuine criminals, but to be cut off from those manifold influences of society that tend to develop self-respect and self-restraint. However, as this is a Convention of Poor Directors, I will not describe this work in detail, but simply say that the effort thus far has been most successful, and leads us to confidently expect that a very large proportion of these wayward boys and girls will develop into respectable members of society. As we see the fierce struggle for existence, as we feel the terrible stress of competition in every line of effort, how natural it is for us to feel that there are already too many people in the world, to forget the value of human life, and to lose our high enthusiasm for our work. Let us try for once to realize the tremendous amount of human energy that is consumed in the operations of the industrial world in a single day. What a vast amount of expended human force is represented wherever we may turn our eyes, of all commercial demands that for human labor is most universal, and of all commodities it is the most perishable. Not many years since the

value of an able-bodied man was reckoned in the market at a thousand dollars. If you add to him mental and moral power, is his value to the community decreased? And yet who of us thinks in dealing with a child that he represents such an actual cash value to the community? And of how much greater importance is the addition to the moral momentum of society that must lift it to a higher life.

Such are the principles upon which the Children's Aid Society takes its stand as it faces the public and asks for its support. These are the convictions that have been forced upon us by our past experience. Upon them we stake our reputation, and in accordance with them we propose to undertake the work that may come to our hands.

MR. SMITH (Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty,) presented the following report :

### REPORT OF THE PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY TO PROTECT CHILDREN FROM CRUELTY, FOR THE PAST YEAR.

Number of cases investigated, 768 ; children involved, 1,762 ; convictions obtained in cases prosecuted, 165 ; children removed from their parents or guardians, 460 ; placed in institutions, 316 ; placed in private families, 144.

Since the organization of the society in March, 1877, it has investigated 10,471 cases of cruelty or neglect, thereby relieving 24,170 children, and by due course of law removed 7,586 children from their parents or others having charge of them, and placing them in suitable homes.

Respectfully submitted,

GEO. H. SMITH,

*Secretary.*

*Mrs. Streeter* ( Crawford County ): If it is in order, I would like to say that the Children's Aid Societies have looked forward for months to meeting these gentlemen for the purpose of getting at the ideas of the men as well as of the women, as to how we shall deal with incorrigible children, and how we can get at another institution for the feeble-minded children in the western

part of the State; and now, if the gentlemen would only be kind enough to give us their views upon the subject, and help us in these two vital matters, we would be exceedingly obliged.

*Dr. Schultz* (Berk's County): I desire to make a motion; that a committee of three be appointed to confer with the members of the legislature and see whether something cannot be done in behalf of the children the lady refers to.

Discussion on the motion was had by Messrs. Roney, Milliken, Snyder, Smith, Gould and Dr. Schultz.

*Mr. Sypher* (Philadelphia): I move that this whole subject be postponed until to-morrow morning, to be taken up at the morning session. Agreed to.

*Mr. Pughe* (Lackawanna County): I wish to introduce a subject that I think will be interesting to this Convention, especially after the very able articles we have heard read to us this evening, and it is a fitting sequel to the subject. We have in our State, and in our district, a woman, a Director of the Poor, the first and only one in Pennsylvania, appointed by Judge Archibald, of Lackawanna County. At the request of several gentlemen I have been asked to introduce the lady to this Convention, so that when they meet her they will know who it is. Mrs. Swan, please come forward.

Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen and ladies, I desire to say on this interesting subject that she is a noble Christian woman. Her heart is full of philanthropy, and she is associated with many evangelical works, and is associated in our city with everything that tends to elevate humanity.

*Mrs. Swan*: Thank you, Mr. Pughe. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen, I do esteem it an honor to be presented to you as a director of the poor and a co-worker in the cause which you represent. I would like to say that this appointment came to me, and was not one that I sought.

On motion the Convention adjourned to to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock.

## MORNING SESSION.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 22, 1890.

*The President:* The Convention will please come to order. The regular order for this morning will be, first, reports from committees.

*Mr. Snyder,* (Philadelphia): I have the report of the account of Mr. Brown, our Treasurer, who is not here to-day. He wishes not to be re-elected. He has filled the office of treasurer for a number of years. He took possession of the finances of this Association when they were very low, and by his industry and tact has succeeded in bringing them up to a high standard.

COLLECTION OF ASSESSMENTS FROM THE VARIOUS  
COUNTIES IN THE STATE.

Chester County Children's Aid.....	\$ 5 00
Board of Public Charities (2 yrs. Philadelphia).....	35 00
Chester County.....	20 00
Germantown.....	20 00
Children's Aid Society (Western Pennsylvania).....	5 00
Washington County (Children's Home).....	7 00
Washington County Home.....	13 00
Allegheny City Home.....	20 00
Lancaster County.....	20 00
Adams County.....	20 00
Sunbury poor district.....	5 00
Perry County.....	20 00
Blair County.....	20 00
Crawford County.....	20 00
Somerset County.....	20 00
Lebanon County.....	20 00
Northampton County.....	20 00
Lackawanna County (Blakely poor district).....	10 00
Huntingdon County.....	15 00
Montgomery County.....	20 00
Allegheny County.....	20 00
Franklin County.....	20 00
Pittsburgh (Dep't. of Charities).....	20 00
Bedford County.....	20 00



York County.....	20 00
Luzerne County Central Poor District.....	20 00
Lackawanna County (Scranton Poor District).....	20 00
Delaware County.....	20 00
McKean County.....	20 00
Jenkins Tp., Pittston borough and Pittston Tp.....	5 00
Bucks County.....	20 00
Philadelphia, Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor District..	20 00
Mifflin County.....	20 00
Mercer County.....	20 00
Beaver County.....	20 00
Armstrong County, Kittanning poor house.....	20 00
Philadelphia Department of Charities and Correction.....	20 00
Berks County.....	20 00
Total Collections.....	<u>\$680 00</u>

TOTAL EXPENDITURES OF THE STATE ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE YEAR, AS FOLLOWS:

To balance due Treasurer from last audit.....	\$204 95
“ Janitor for cleaning hall at Altoona.....	5 00
Balance of account to Myers, Shinkle & Co.....	38 75
To R. D. McGonnigle, Sec’y, expenses and services compiling accounts of meeting at Altoona.....	75 00
To Myers, Shinkle & Co., publishing reports for 1889.....	250 00
“ Jno. M. Bennet, stenographer, reporting Altoona meeting	75 00
“ Extra stenographic services.....	25 00
“ Robert D. McGonnigle, postage, telegrams, etc.....	11 00
Total Cash paid out.....	<u>\$684 00</u>
“ “ collected.....	680 00
Balance due Treasurer.....	<u>\$ 4 70</u>

WM. M. BROWN,  
*Treasurer.*

We, the undersigned auditors, have examined the accounts of Wm. M. Brown, Treasurer of the State Association of the Poor Directors of Pennsylvania, find the same correct balance due the

Treasurer, Mr. Brown, four 70-100 dollars, and your Committee further received an assessment of fifteen (\$15) dollars on each poor district.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLES S. SNYDER,  
HENRY H. PHILLIPS.

LANCASTER, Oct. 21, 1890.

*Dr. Schultz*, (Berks County): I move that the report be received and spread upon the minutes. Agreed to.

*Mr. Snyder*, (Philadelphia): I would move in this connection that a vote of thanks be tendered Mr. Brown for his able and active service as Treasurer of this Association, and that it be placed upon the minutes. Agreed to.

*Mr. Alston*, (Allegheny County): From the Committee on Officers for the ensuing year, presented the following report, which was received and adopted:

Charles S. Snyder, Philadelphia, President; Edward P. Gould, of Erie; John Witherspoon, of Franklin; Jacob S. Strine, of Lancaster; Dr. Rudolph B. Schluzer, of Berks; Mrs. Wm. P. Price, of Allegheny, Vice Presidents; Wm. P. Hunker, of Allegheny, Recording Secretary; Robt. D. McGonnigle, of Allegheny, Corresponding Secretary; Louis C. Colborn, of Somerset, Treasurer.

*Mr. Colborn*, (Somerset County): I am very much gratified at the honor conferred upon me in naming me as treasurer of this Association, but my duties at home are such that it will be almost impossible for me to attend to the office, and I would respectfully decline to serve.

*Mr. Ross*, (Montgomery County): I move that Mr. John S. Hope, of Chester county, be nominated in the place of Mr. Colborn as Treasurer, who has declined to serve. Agreed to.

*The President*: Commissioner Hill will now read the report Poor Law Commission.

*To the Association of Directors of the Poor*:

To be called upon at this time to give some account of the work done by the Commission, to revise and codify the poor laws of this

Commonwealth, is like being called from the harvest-field in the heat of the day. So much remains to be done—the gathering and the winnowing—before the fruits of toil can be apprehended, that to answer the question, “What have you done?” seems almost useless. Nevertheless, we recognize your right to ask that question, and dropping the work, turn to answer.

When, a year ago, the members of this Commission organized under the Act of Assembly you were instrumental in having passed and approved, none of us, I think, were aware of the great field covered by legislation, administrative experience and speculation, in the province of poor laws. Partially conscious of it, however, the Commission, on October 30, 1889, approved, *inter alia*, of the following suggestions:

*Ninth.*—The Commission should agree upon comprehensive interrogatories, to be printed, with blank spaces for answers, and sent out by the clerk to the poor law officers in each district in the State. As it will perhaps be impossible for the whole Commission to continue long enough at one time in session to formulate these interrogatories, it would be well perhaps to appoint some member of the Commission to do this work, and submit the interrogatories in manuscript to the Commission in session for approval or amendment. These interrogatories should, if possible, at the start be made to cover the whole ground so as to obtain at once all information from the districts that can be gathered without personal inspection; and the information thus secured should be printed for the use of the Commission in as condensed a form as possible.

*Tenth.*—The whole subject of poor law legislation can readily be divided into several parts and the initiatory work delegated to different members of the Commission. For example, the following divisions might be made special by individual members:

1. Taxation, including the liability to pay for poor relief, the assessment and collection of the taxes, the disbursement of the funds and the accounting.

2. Districts, settlements and legal procedure.

3. The duties of poor law officers, the director, the overseer, &c.; and in this connection might be considered the advisability of employing women as relieving officers.

4. Poor-house administration, employment of the poor and care of poor children, idiots and insane persons.

5. Out-door relief, and the relief of casual poor, or persons without home or residence.

6. The liability of persons to support their relatives, and the enforcement of such liability.

7. Desertion, bastardy and vagrancy.

*Eleventh.*—Referring now to the examination of the laws of other States and countries and their administration, this work can also be delegated to such members of the Commission as would desire to undertake it. Considerable progress has been made in many of the States beyond the point where general legislation in Pennsylvania ceased, and much improvement has been made in England, whence our general law was derived. Again, in many of the American States there seems to be scarcely any legislation upon this subject whatever. In undertaking to improve our general law it would appear to me to be unwise not to investigate, as far as possible, the experiments of other States and countries so as to obtain the benefit of their experience. The time for making a thorough investigation is, of course, limited, and it will no doubt require considerable self-sacrifice on the part of members of the Commission to do anything like justice to the subject. It will be advisable, in addition to the examination of the mere text of the laws of other States, to consult and advise with persons who have been engaged in their administration; and in several instances it may be extremely important for members of the Commission to make visits to other States where suitable laws seem to be in operation, and gather such information relative thereto as cannot be readily obtained by correspondence or reference to printed documents.

The interrogatories were drawn, after several consultations, and, being printed, were sent to each of the 700 districts in the State. The questions numbered 116, and were made to cover the field of inquiry as fully as our limited experience permitted. The lack of reliable statistics in Pennsylvania and the general absence of interest in the subject made this task difficult. We experienced delay and difficulties even in obtaining the names and postoffice addresses of poor law officers. Up to this time 311 sets of the printed interrogatories have been returned with answers more or less complete according to the intelligence and interest of the local officers. Of the 71 districts (including counties) maintaining almshouses a little over one-half (37) complied with the requests



of the Commission for information. Replies from 274 cities, boroughs and townships, not having almshouses, but being wholly under the overseer system, was a proportion as large as we had any right to expect. To have obtained accurate and perfectly reliable testimony from the entire State would have taken the time of each member of the Commission for the whole year, and even then assistant commissioners would have been required. This, as I have intimated, is the result of the bad policy—or rather lack of policy—of the State, in failing to make adequate provision for statistics as to local government matters.

In addition to the information to be obtained through the medium of printed questions and answers, the Commission devoted some time to visiting what we considered typical districts and making personal investigations of the administration of the laws. In this way we visited Philadelphia, Lancaster, Scranton, (including Lackawanna and Luzerne Counties); Stroudsburg, Monroe County; Lewisburg, Union County; Chester, Chester County; Erie, Erie County, and examined a large number of witnesses who came voluntarily before us and gave us their views and the results of their experience.

Individual members of the Commission also visited Albany, N. Y., Boston, Mass, and London, England, and gathered information and printed matter from these and other States and counties upon the subject.

The members of the Commission dwell in different parts of the State and are engaged in occupations which have no direct bearing upon this subject. Separated by many miles and meeting together only at rare intervals, they have certainly labored at a disadvantage, and yet they have been unwilling to commit hastily to writing any ill-considered Bill for your examination or for the action of the Legislature. They have rather felt that, if they succeeded in getting and putting in order the actual facts, the Bill would follow with little effort.

Having obtained the evidence and information, of which I speak, the bulk of it compelled the question, How can it be made accessible; how put it in convenient shape for use? This was answered in a measure by adopting a system under which the answers to interrogatories have been tabulated under the seven

headings above mentioned and the results placed in the hands of the members according to subject.

I have before me analysis of several of these branches to which I will presently refer.

Before proceeding further, I would like to remark that, unless opinions expressed here are credited to some one else they must be set down as my own. In the absence of final consideration of the several subjects and action thereon by the Commission, it must be understood that I have no authority to speak for them.

With this understanding, permit me to say something about

#### POOR LAW PRINCIPLES.

If any one supposes that poor-laws constitute the legal method of dispensing charity, let him undeceive himself. Far from this being true, it has been found in practice that it is advisable to make the distinction between legal relief and true charity as broad and evident as possible. Not that poor-law officers should be uncharitable. It is rather because no civil society has ever been pure and unselfish enough to be able to entrust the exercise of its charity to any class or set of persons, if indeed such a society would need to do it. It is only as a consequence of the persistent selfishness of society that the State is compelled to intervene to protect individuals from the results of absolute *destitution*. If then the mass of the people, as individuals, permit destitution, how can it be that the same mass may elect officials to relieve such destitution *as an act of charity*. It can not be done and is not to be thought of. The stream can not rise above its source. Hence at the most poor-laws can but supplant, imperfectly, the gap left open by the lack of true charity among the people.

Now, it must be self-evident that the administration of these laws must be fixed beyond peradventure by the very power which enacts them. Men are elected to expend money derived from the industry of the people—what for? To pay the just expenses of government for the maintenance of the executive, legislative and judicial departments? No; but to prevent A or B from starving. Here is a delicate office. If we could be absolutely sure of electing always men to occupy the post of relieving officers who would be beyond suspicion or reproach, we would need no such officers. The community would be too

honest and virtuous for the existence of destitution. But granted that the office must exist, then, so long as we are imperfect creatures, the State must, through the wisdom of its Legislature, prescribe the subject of relief and the method of relief with such checks as will reduce misapplication of the money of the industrious and provident to a minimum. But the question of misapplication of funds is a matter that is susceptible of measurement. There is another evil of a lax system or of a no-system that is far worse and incapable of measurement. It is the propagation of an evil that is visited upon the children unto the third and fourth generation. This is in the giving of relief where it is not needed, and where the injury to the recipient consists in making him a deceiving, lying, idle and vicious member of the community and enabling him to propagate these vices. Any State system, it must be said, which lowers the manhood or womanhood of the people, is a vicious system and should be rooted out.

I. The first *principle* to be observed in poor-law administration is that the State should relieve *actual destitution* alone.

This is not a new principle. It is the very foundation of the present law of the State, which was drawn from the wise provisions of a statute of the forty-third year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth. (43 Eliz. c. 21.)

By that celebrated statute which established the system of taxation of the people for the relief of the poor (at a time, indeed, when the expiration of feudalism, the manumission of the villeins, the destruction of the monasteries, and the industrial readjustment of the race, rendered it necessary to relieve the common people who were ignorant and poor and unable to help themselves), the public funds were to be used for three purposes:

1. To apprentice poor children.
2. To supply material for the labor of those who were poor and had no trade or occupation to get their living by; and
3. To give necessary relief to the aged and impotent poor who were unable to do any work.

You may examine our Act of 1836, and our special and local laws, and you will find no other authority for the expenditure of the poor tax beyond these, excepting for administrative purposes,

such as the building of almshouses, workhouses and the like, and the payment of salaries.

But why so much as to this as a principle? Because we have learned that the funds have been used for other purposes. The Commission appointed in England in 1832 to inquire into the operation of the poor laws, made a report in 1834 which is a classic in poor law literature. The Bishop of London was at its head, and among its members were Mr. Nassau Senior and Mr. Sturges Bourne. They said, as we must say in truth, that the fund created by the 43rd of Elizabeth had been diverted to uses other than those contemplated by the legislature, and the consequences, as they found, were truly frightful. The rates or taxes were increasing. In many places the margin between land-profits and taxation was perilously narrow. In a few the land had been thrown up. Withal the numbers and sufferings of the poor were constantly increasing. Wherever the administration had farthest departed from this simple principle the worse were the results. The laboring poor were fast drifting into practical communism, and a great effort on the part of English statesmen since that time has been necessary to stem the tide and to restore the principle to operation. Now, while we can congratulate ourselves that we have not drifted into such perilous straits, yet we cannot say we need not a helmsman. Broadly speaking we have the same laws, we have the same people; and the same practices, if continued, may produce the same results. Laxity in the use of these funds, whether from motives of mistaken benevolence, or from the desire of personal gain, must result in untold evils. Even now there is complaint of over-taxation in Pennsylvania and a demand that part of the burden be shifted from the shoulders of the people to the broader (?) shoulders of the State. The number of paupers is increasing, tramps or vagrants multiply, the poor fund is distributed in pensions and doles, and is even used to corrupt elections.

This principle comes to be disregarded chiefly through the administration of out-door relief, by which we mean relief given outside of a public institution. A public institution may be mismanaged, but it is open to inspection. Rules can be made for it and enforced in it, and the public can always inquire and see what



is going on and it affords a powerful test of distribution. Not so with out-door relief.

It may be doubted whether any system of out-door relief can be perfected so as to prevent misapplication of funds and consequent injury to the people, except the system which aims at its own abolition. In Philadelphia no relief is given out of the almshouse. In Brooklyn, N. Y., and in some other places it has been practically abandoned. In some of our smaller Pennsylvania districts it has been practically abandoned ; but, so much depends upon the officials, that a change at any election may change the practice. One of the singular and unexpected results of abolishing out-door relief is the diminution of pauperism. That is what some people can not understand ; and yet it is the simple consequence of *ceasing* to educate people into reliance upon the public funds.

A practical example may interest as well as instruct. Everyone has heard of the Whitechapel district in London. It has an evil reputation and is the seat of much vice and pauperism. I went twice to the Union offices in Baker's Row and had the privilege of conversing with Mr. William Vallance, Clerk to the Guardians. I say privilege, because I consider him a man of knowledge, intelligence and kindness of heart. I think he is a solicitor by profession, but his whole time is devoted to the onerous duties of his office as Clerk.

For nearly eighteen years past, Mr. Vallance says "No cases—other than those of sudden or urgent necessity relieved by the Relieving Officers in kind—have been added to the Out-door Relief Lists."

Here are the remarkable figures for this Union for 1870, 1880 and 1888 :

	In-door Paupers relieved.	Out-door Paupers relieved.	Total.
1870	1419	5339	6758
1880	1464	128	1592
1888	1356	63	1419

You will notice that during these 18 years the total number of persons relieved decreased from 6758 to 1419, and that the latter is the exact number of indoor paupers relieved in 1870.

The causes which brought about this reduction, the means employed and the results are all of intense interest and practical value.

When Mr. Goschen was President of the Local Government Board a widespread depression brought a pressure upon the poor-law institutions beyond their capacity and an impetus was given to private charitable work. He issued a letter to the Guardians urging the stringent application of the principles of poor-law relief and defining its province as contradistinguished from private charity, and at the same time urged private almoners and charitable societies to co-operate, so that these principles might be maintained. The results were beneficial and the founding of the Charity Organization Society followed.

In Whitechapel, one of the most lawless quarters of the metropolis, the system at that time was, to use the words of Mr. Vallance, that of "meeting apparent existing circumstances of need by small doles of out-door relief, the in-door establishments being reserved for the destitute poor who voluntarily sought refuge in them. Able-bodied men who applied for relief on account of want of employment were set to work," &c. "Under this system, the administration was periodically subjected to great pressure, so much so that the aid of the police had, not infrequently, to be invoked to restrain disorder and afford necessary protection to officers and property. Police protection was even at times required for the Guardians during the administration of relief."

The Guardians upon careful consideration concluded that the system was "fostering pauperism and encouraging idleness, improvidence and imposture, whilst the relief, in no true sense helped the poor." They resolved to gradually restrict out-door relief with the ultimate determination to interpret "legal-relief" as "relief in the work-house, or other institution, for the actually destitute." This plan they carried out consistently by abolishing the "labor-yard" and by rigidly guarding admission to the out-door relief list. The results are only partially shown by the figures. A happy understanding exists between the officers and the Committee of the Charity Organization Society and voluntary charity, Mr. Vallance says, "may be now described as *more personal service and less almsgiving*." The poor are said to be more self-respecting, and instead of assembling at the meetings of the Board with stones and clubs to demand relief, have some

knowledge of the principles of legal-relief and, to some extent, lend their aid in carrying them out.

One result of this rigid application of principles and consequent stimulation of private charity in the direction of "more personal service and less almsgiving" is showing in the statement that: "The present number of children of widows in the district school is 46, as compared with a mean number of 418 widows and 1,010 children in receipt of out-door relief in 1870."

It must be remembered that of these 1,428 widows and children none were suffered to become destitute. The workhouse (almshouse) was open and they could, at any time, seek a refuge there.

II. The second principle to be observed in poor-law administration is that "the condition of the pauper ought to be, on the whole, less eligible than that of the independent laborer."

The principle is founded upon experience and is upheld by the sense of its fairness. Manifestly it is unfair to send the tax collector to the door of a poor but industrious workingman to take from him any portion of his wages to maintain another person in a superior condition. On the other hand there is always a large number of people who stand midway between destitution and honest independence, who will not work if they can help it and who have an almost fatal drift towards pauperism. With them the question of eligibility is important. Steady work and saving for old age stand on the one side, the workhouse on the other. Add out-door relief, upon easy terms, to the latter and the scales may come down. Take it away and let it be understood that by effort their condition of independence will be preferable; that the condition of pauperism will be less preferable, less eligible, and they will turn from State relief, enrich the State and posterity by so much more labor, and put their children upon a higher plane.

To properly apply this principle the workhouse is indispensable. Whether it be called a workhouse, almshouse, poorhouse, county-home, or by any other name, it should mean the same thing—a *public institution in which the public can relieve destitution in such a way that the hazard of doing evil thereby may be reduced to the narrowest compass possible.*

The Christian charity of such a man as William Talleck, Secretary of the Howard Association, will hardly be questioned.

He spoke to me in the most emphatic way of the necessity of extending and applying this principle. He also added: "But the great aim with respect to a workhouse, as well as a prison, is to have it empty." The only oases in the desert of extravagance and pauperism of England in 1832-4 were found to be the districts in which these principles were rigidly applied. Where they are applied in Pennsylvania, to-day, you will find lighter taxes and a better satisfied population.

But how are these principles to applied?

Let me suggest two things:

1st. This Association is an excellent medium for discussing such questions, for instilling a true knowledge of principles and for encouraging their application. But can it bring about uniformity? I think not. Some other permanent agency must be established to ensure faithful and uniform application of true principles.

This leads to my second suggestion:

2d. The government itself must establish an agency to secure the faithful administration of the laws. Either the State Board of Charities or one of the Departments at Harrisburg should have power and authority to prescribe the regulations and the conditions under which relief should be given in and out of institutions. And this Central Authority should have adequate assistance. It should have inspectors to see that its regulations and conditions are observed and it should have auditors to see that all moneys are properly accounted for. The present system of auditing accounts in many districts is as much a farce as is the allowance of the poor-tax by two justices of the county. Auditors should be in the pay of the State and have districts large enough to require their whole time. They should be expert accountants and know the laws. They should be wholly independent of the authorities whose accounts they examine.

In these we had a Central Board with eyes open to administrative experiments at home and abroad, prescribing the lines of public relief, establishing uniformity, stimulating the growth of private Christian charity, and at the same time inspecting the administration of relief and auditing the accounts, improvements in the law could be made with certainty, the poor would be better cared for, the growth of pauperism checked perhaps, and you would be



called upon year after year to discuss the greater questions of pauperism to the edification of the community and the benefit of the administration.

To a limited extent we have such a system in the public schools. Our public school system owes its planting and growth in a sense to the Poor Laws. Why should it be placed on high in the estimation of the people, while the old system is allowed to drag on neglected to gnaw at and injure the very foundations of the whole structure?

I must say, however, that while these subjects have been discussed no definite conclusions have been arrived at by the commissioners.

Let me now try to give you some idea of the results of the testimony upon the questions, &c., of which were referred to me.

Of the 311 districts answering the interrogatories, 4 are cities, 54 boroughs, 24 counties, 6 unions and 223 townships. In all of these districts but 27 refusals to serve the office of overseer are reported, and as the reports are based upon memory they probably cover a number of years. It may be said therefore that refusals to act as overseer are uncommon. The grounds of refusal are generally illegal. They are based upon physical disability, ignorance of duties, business engagements, and the uselessness of a second overseer. Some of the refusals were based upon a previous year's service in the office.

No penalty for refusal is reported in any case, and it is probable that no such penalty has been inflicted for many generations.

In some districts of the State the order of relief has been abolished. This is the case in many of the counties having county institutions under the management of directors of the poor, but in most of the districts relief continues to be given upon the order of her justices of the peace, granted usually upon the oath of the applicant without further inquiry, each justice receiving from the district a fee of from 25c. to \$1.00. The practice upon service of the order of relief varies. In some districts the overseers claim to have the right to make an examination of the case and act upon their own judgment while in others the order is regarded as peremptory. There is no uniformity of practice in obtaining orders from justices approving the grant of relief in emergency cases. One hundred and thirty-four districts report that they do not take

out orders of approval and 102 admit that they keep no "Poor Book." In such districts doubtless the law is disregarded by the overseers and the auditors through sheer ignorance.

The majority make no suggestion in regard to improvement in the law respecting the order of relief. A number of districts, however, make the suggestion that the justices should be required give notice to the overseers upon complaint being made before issuing the order so that the latter might attend and take part in the examination.

One county suggests that the justices may be influenced by pity or by bribery and that, therefore, there should be inspectors. Various other suggestions are made: some that the service of the justices should be dispensed with; some that the justices should act only upon the refusal of the overseers to relieve in proper cases; some that the justices should not be paid; some that three witnesses should be required; some that the witnesses should be property owners; one that the justice should be compelled to reduce the testimony to writing; another that the overseer should have remedy by appeal and also to have the order revoked; while one makes this characteristic reply, "don't see that it makes much difference from whom they get orders." Complaint of the laxity of the system of granting orders of relief by justices of the peace, is quite common. Five districts only report that they have enforced the provisions of the act of 1836 under which housekeepers are required to notify the overseers if any person coming in the district is not a resident. One of these says that they "got rid of one person" by means of these provisions.

The reports in regard to unsettled applicants for relief during a year are entirely unreliable. The figures, however, as given are 11,794 in 12 months in 265 districts. I conclude that these figures are unreliable for the reason that it is quite evident that no proper records are kept and that where they are kept there is no uniformity in classification.

Question No. 79 elicited some very amusing replies, and also the fact that this provision of the law is not applied in any district of the State, also it has stood written in the statute books from the foundation of the Commonwealth. It is as follows: "Has any place or places been provided in your district and stocks of materials furnished for setting to work such poor persons as are

able to work out cannot find employment as provided by section two of Act June 13, 1836? If not, please give the reason why this has not been done and your opinion relative thereto." I will quote only one answer—it comes from a rural township. The overseers say "no; think it a good plan—are just advised that we have authority."

Only 12 districts of the State employ paupers to work on the roads. Some report that the poor won't work, others that the taxpayers have the right to work out their taxes on the road. One experienced overseer says "Don't think above provision sound policy, results in poor work and worse discipline." Another says "Yes; this is a good provision, but should be amended so as to give district more remedies upon refusal."

The officers of 68 districts give it as their opinion that uniformity in the treatment of the dependent poor would obviate the necessity of removals to places of legal settlement; from 60 districts the answer is "no," and in 92, indefinite or unintelligible. It is quite evident that the great majority of overseers have given no thought in the administration of relief outside of their own township and of its bearing upon their own duties and responsibilities.

Two hundred and seventy-seven districts report removals of paupers to the number of ninety-two under Orders of Removal with 28 appeals. Appeals pending number 33 of which 6 have been successful. Both the number of removals and of appeals are unreliable, as both the districts from and that to which the pauper was removed make report without particularly specifying circumstances.

The number of compulsory removals is rather unimportant and they are confined mostly to the smaller rural districts where the average weekly cost of maintenance is about \$2.20 and the average cost of removal \$83.30. The expenses of single removals (costs and charges) are reported as follows: \$400, \$342, \$321, \$300, \$200, \$193, \$100 and on down to small sums. \$400 seems to be the height of extravagance in this direction and probably includes expenses of proceedings in the Supreme Court.

Eighty-three districts claim that they are benefited by this law; seventy claim that they are not and ask for its repeal, while 103 either have no idea upon the subject or a very confused and



unsatisfactory one. It seems generally to be the case that where overseers have succeeded in removing a pauper to another district, they favor removals, and where a pauper has been successfully removed to their district they oppose the law. One district says that they are "Considerably benefited in the case of a lunatic." Another, "Yes, in keeping other places from shoving poor on us," &c.

Six months' residence, the qualification for voting and three months' residence, one year's residence and many other simple grounds of settlement are suggested.

Opinions seems equally divided upon the subject of a State pauper law, but the subject is not well understood. One overseer, in Clearfield county, asserts that "All Commonwealth business is generally a fraud," and adds "Townships can do more economically."

One hundred and fifty-three districts seem to think people should be removable on the ground that they are "Likely to become chargeable," but only forty-one report that they enforce this law; 101 oppose the law. Several districts report that they "accomplish this (removal of poor persons not applicants for relief) by threats," &c. Driving out the poor by means of threats, refusing to let them houses, &c., is not uncommon. A number of districts report the cost of such proceedings as excessive, e. g., "More than would maintain a pauper in his lifetime and yet failed;" "Cost both districts more than would have kept the family in good county home;" "More than would have kept one poor for one year at least."

Settlement litigation is like hunting with a dog and gun—a passion with some rural overseers and they spare no expense in pushing such cases to final hearing even though the pauper should meanwhile betake himself to that "bourne from which no traveler returns."

The members of the Commission are of opinion that a simple question of residence should supplant the intricate grounds of settlement and that no removal of poor persons should be allowed except in case of actual chargeability.

We also favor the county system with workhouse or poor-house which would reduce the necessity of a settlement law to the minimum.

COMMITTEE.



Mr. McGonnigle on Out-door Relief, Mr. Appel on the Duties of Officers, &c., and Mr. Marsh on Almshouse Administration, make the following special reports :

## REPORT ON OUT-DOOR RELIEF.

BY R. D. MCGONNIGLE, COMMISSIONER.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Commission to Revise and Codify the Poor Laws of Pennsylvania.*

GENTLEMEN—Among the promises upon which we may depend is that we shall always have the poor with us. We may, therefore, prepare to care for them for all time to come.

Pauperism is a constitutional social disorder. It is infectious and spreads rapidly under favorable conditions and, like other infections, disappears under proper regulations.

It becomes our duty, therefore, to not only provide for the immediate wants of the poor, but to devise ways and means for reducing and preventing pauperism. This country has been notably free from it as compared with European countries, but with the great influx of immigrants from abroad we are in imminent danger of contracting the disorder.

The poor to whom we owe the duty of providing for their wants are those who are sick, crippled or in some way incapacitated for such employment as will yield the means of subsistence. No one objects to helping such as these, and none are allowed to suffer who make their wants known ; but it often happens that the most deserving are ashamed to allow even their intimate friends to know their needs.

In this country it has always been considered disreputable to beg, or to ask aid from a poor board. If we can succeed in making it even more disreputable, except in cases of physical disability on the part of the applicants, we will have done a great work.

In countries where mendicancy and pauperism are respectable we find able-bodied men, women and children leading lives of idleness or worthlessness. In many foreign cities you are being constantly solicited by big, hearty, well-fed men for alms.

This should be prevented in this country by legislation and discouraged through the press, the pulpit and the schools.

Even after we have done all we can in this direction there will still be deserving poor to be cared for. These we will always have with us. The question then presents itself :

Who are deserving ?

First comes the homeless. Our climate is such that people cannot live without shelter, and articles of food do not grow spontaneously as in southern countries. It is necessary, therefore, to provide homes for the homeless.

For these we have the almshouses erected and maintained by public taxation. It is the first and best form of relief, because it at once provides a home for the homeless, relieves the sick and debilitated from anxiety, and separates the susceptible from evil influences.

It is the cheapest form of relief, because there is less waste of food and clothing, and fewer agents are required in dispensing it. We may conclude, therefore, that the almshouse furnishes the very best type of relief for the poor, and at the least expense to the taxpayer. It should be used to as great an extent as possible, but never should its privileges be abused.

Under no pretense should children be kept therein for any considerable length of time, as all the surroundings of an almshouse have a demoralizing and pauperising effect. Efforts should be made to find other homes for them, so that they may be constrained to feel that they must support themselves.

There is no surer way to eradicate pauperism than to keep children away from it. If they are allowed in almshouses they are almost certain to be contaminated.

While the almshouse affords the best relief for the homeless and debilitated, it does not meet the wants of all classes and conditions. It becomes necessary, therefore, to resort to "out-door relief," or relief out of the almshouse, but it should only be granted in cases of *emergency*, and that for a short time.

It is in granting "out-door relief" that the greatest abuses arise. The average applicant is usually in need at the time, but the history of a majority of cases will show that the present need is due to intemperance, laziness or improvidence. The applicant is laboring under the impression that he is entitled to aid merely because he is out of money and out of food, and that he has a right to make the demand.

Once on the "out-door relief" list, such persons are in no hurry to get work, and if they do they will not hesitate to spend their earnings for that which is not bread. They may have some hesitation in making a first application, but not for a second. The English reports show that during the time that "out-door relief" was freely given, thousands of families depended entirely on "rates," as the poor fund was called. But worse than this, their children became constitutional paupers, and spread the disease in every direction. Had this system been continued England would now be a nation of paupers.

In order to prevent the spread of pauperism, children should not be allowed, under any circumstances, to collect the allowance, and never even to visit the relief office. If the applicant is not able to appear in person, then let some responsible tax-payer or agent of some charitable society appear for him if at all possible. It would be better to have all "out-door relief" distributed by agents, as this would make it appear more like an act of private charity, thereby disassociating it with the public charity. There is a great difference between a public and private charity in the minds of the poor.

It were much better for all concerned if "out-door relief" could be administered by the agents or representatives of well organized charitable institutions, and removed entirely from politics. The poor would be better served, because the agents could see just what was needed. They would also discover what led to the state of want and be able to suggest remedies.

In all manufacturing and mining districts strikes and lock-outs are liable to occur, and when long continued are prolific of great suffering among those who are barely able to eke out a subsistence when work is plenty, and the demands on the relief fund is liable to be heavy and become oppressive.

As their distress is only temporary it would not be policy to take the sufferers to the almshouse, nor to break up their families. In all such cases it is better for the poor authorities to use their influence in settling the trouble. This would oftener be done if each poor district or township had to pay a special tax for the support of its own "out-door relief" poor. This would bring the matter home and interest each taxpayer in keeping the "out-door relief" expenses down. So long as the whole county or

State has to foot the bill, the individual taxpayer does not feel it so directly. Bring it home to each of them by making the pay according to the demand in this immediate district, and they will soon begin to inquire about the disposal of the funds.

Owing to the highly diversified interests and employments in the State, it will be impossible to pass a general law embodying details applicable to the distribution of relief in all sections. Regulations, suited to the demands of agricultural districts, will not apply to either cities or mining districts.

The practical thing seems to be to pass a general law authorizing the apportionment of all out-door relief expenses to township and poor districts. If any of these expend more than their quota let the expense be added to their next assessments.

The general law should grant the directors of the poor the right to select such charitable organizations in the district as they may think proper to dispense the public "out-door relief," or to make such arrangements as will secure the best results to the poor at the least expense to the taxpayer, subject to the approval of the Board of State Charities or their central authority.

The experience of the past in this country, as well as in Europe, shows conclusively that "out-door relief" is highly demoralizing and tends to increase pauperism. This tendency was so great in some localities that it was wiped out entirely and, strange to say, without increasing the population of its almshouses, but on the contrary it has reduced it, showing that one of the results of "out-door relief" is to increase the population of the almshouse.

There is nothing except the intemperate use of alcoholic beverages that is more demoralizing and pauperizing than "out-door relief." For this reason, if for no other, it should be reduced to the minimum, and even then administered through competent, careful and discriminating agencies. The poor should be taught that there is no relief aside from providence except for those afflicted and for those in danger of starvation. This may sound the least bit cruel, but it is not. Only those are worthy of being helped who cannot help themselves, and public charity should be strictly limited to such cases.

Volumes have been written on this subject, and the result of all



investigation is that "our-door relief" is pernicious in its effect, but for the present, at least, it cannot be stopped entirely.

The other general conclusion is that almshouses should be made the homes of all indigent, helpless persons who are not capable of maintaining themselves. Even if they can partially do so it is better for them to be kept in the almshouse rather than to demoralize others by supporting them out of the public charity fund.

As to the means of distributing "out-door relief" there are wide differences in opinion, but those who have given the matter long and careful attention agree that the system in vogue in this State is not only wasteful, as far as money is concerned, but demoralizing to society. The latter phase is really worse than the other, because its effects are so far-reaching.

It is not possible for a board of poor directors in a large district to examine every case, because a majority of those who apply for aid will endeavor to make their wants appear greater than they really are. A hasty examination of such cases will not reveal their true inwardness. Only organized relief corps can accomplish this successfully, and they must employ agents specially fitted for the work.

For this reason it will be better to employ well-organized charitable associations to dispense "out-door relief," especially in cities and towns where such organizations exist. Even if poor-boards should be authorized to employ a corps of visitors, they would hardly be able to secure as efficient help as a charitable association, because of political and other influences brought to bear in their selection.

A careful study of the methods of dispensing "out-door relief" in this country and in England, to say nothing of my own experience and observations, leads directly to the conclusion that it should be done where it is at all possible through a well-organized agency, that has the facilities furnishing a thorough investigation of each case, and in no case given where the applicants have not been visited, the nature of their wants ascertained. By so doing relief may be given with better results to the needy and at less expense than when money, food, clothing or medicine are given upon the representation of the applicants or their neighbors.

Aid from a charitable organization is accepted by the needy as

from a friend, but from a poor-board as alms, or dues, and finally as a pension.

To be efficient and to destroy the spirit of pauperism, "out-door relief" should only be granted upon knowledge obtained by thorough investigation.

Relief should be prompt and given as aid from a friend.

The unworthy should be made to understand that there is nothing for them.

Relief should always be associated with efforts to elevate its recipients to a condition of independence.

The controlling and dominant idea in working among the poor should be to prevent children from developing into paupers. There may be little hope of reclaiming those who have already been demoralized by pauperism, but there is no good reason why their generation may not be stopped. This cannot be done as long as "out-door relief" is given to the vicious, the intemperate and the improvident. Let it, therefore, be confined strictly to *emergency cases*, and then only dispensed, after a complete investigation has been made of each case.

Having discussed briefly the chief features of this branch of the subject, I beg leave to submit a summary of the replies received from the interrogative bearing on such relief.

#### CONCLUSIONS.

1st. It is not practicable to discontinue entirely the granting of "out-door relief."

2d. It should be granted only in cases of emergency, such as temporary sickness, death or causes whereby the family are deprived of their usual income or support and unable to wholly maintain themselves. The period should in no case exceed three months.

3d. "Out-door relief" should be prohibited to single persons.

4th. Relief to beggars and tramps should be furnished under police regulations, and work should be exacted for all relief so granted.

5th. Out-door relief furnished as a means of transportation or aid to persons who can be relieved or cared for in some other

part of this or another State, who have no legal settlement in the district or State, should be relieved under a State pauper law, similar to that of New York.

6th. Granting stated weekly or monthly allowances (practically pensions) should be prohibited under all circumstances.

7th. Directors of the poor should have power to grant "out-door relief" without requiring the applicant to first procure an order from a justice of the peace.

8th. Directors of the poor should have power to arrange with organized charitable societies to act as their agents in the distribution of relief.

9th. Directors of the poor should be authorized to make rules regulations and by-laws, not inconsistent with the law, governing the distribution of "out-door relief" in the various districts, such rules to be approved by the board of public charities or other central authority.

10th. The directors of the poor should have power to appoint a physician or physicians for each township or sub-division of the district, to be approved by the board of public charities or other central authority. They should be paid a stated salary, including medicine, and should be required to attend all poor persons who need medical attention in their respective districts upon proper order, to be arranged for by suitable rules and regulations approved by the board of public charities or other central authority.

11th. Children should not be allowed to make application for "out-door" relief for their parents, or to receive the same under any pretense. The practice of sending children for the relief intended for the family, tends to encourage them in idleness and pauperism. Any one furnishing "out-door relief" to a child or minor should, on conviction, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor.

12th. Directors of the poor should have power to examine all persons under oath who apply to them for relief, and any person making false statements in order to obtain relief, or after receiving it making improper use of it, should be liable to arrest, fine and imprisonment on conviction.

13th. The directors of the poor should be empowered to make necessary contracts for all funeral expenses, the character of the furnishings to be regulated and approved by the board of public charities or other central authority.

14th. For the purpose of education and proper training the directors of the poor should have the same control over all children whose parents receive "out-door relief," as they have over children who are a charge on the poor district, in the almshouse or other institutions.

15th. All "out-door relief" expended in any township, ward or other subdivision of any poor district, should be provided for by a special tax on that particular subdivision of the district, said tax to be assessed at the next ensuing assessment.

Very respectfully,

ROBT. D. MCGONNIGLE,

PITTSBURGH, PA., Nov. 1st, 1890.

*Commissioner.*

## APPENDIX.

Attached hereto, please find a synopsis of replies received from the various poor districts of the State in answer to the interrogatories prepared by the Commission.

QUESTION 24.—"How many able-bodied persons receive out-door relief?"

Answers were received from 292 districts.

257 reported no able-bodied persons receiving out-door relief.

1 reported one person receiving out-door relief.

2 reported two persons receiving out-door relief.

1 reported four persons receiving out-door relief.

31 districts returned various indefinite answers.

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292

QUESTION 25.—"System of out-door medical attendance?"

Answers were received from 284 districts to this question.

83 reported no system.

20 reported that they had had no applications.

181 reported that they had systems of providing, by employment of physicians by the visit, month or year.

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284

QUESTION 26.—"Litigation respecting out-door medical attendance?"

291 districts answered the question.

269 reported no litigation.

22 reported having had some litigation.

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291



QUESTION 29.—“What are the most troublesome class of out-door cases?”

228 districts answered this question.

132 made no special report.

17 reported “Dissipated men and women and drunkards.”

14 reported “Tramps and foreigners.”

12 reported “Accident and long sickness.”

10 reported “Aged couples needing support.”

10 reported “Widows and dependent children.”

7 reported “Insanity.”

6 reported “Those who will not work.”

5 reported “Women.”

4 reported “Cases of dispute between townships.”

4 reported “Large family of orphan children.”

3 reported “Those who cannot get work.”

2 reported “The proud, once rich.”

1 reported “Single men.”

1 reported “Craunks.”

228

QUESTION 31.—“How many cases of relief on account of desertion?”

291 districts answered the question.

211 reported no cases.

80 reported from one to thirty cases each.

291

QUESTION 48.—“How many tramps applied for relief during last year?”

233 districts answered this question.

169 reported no cases.

64 districts reported from one (1) to 5,362.

233

QUESTION 49.—“Is tramp law enforced in your district?”

252 districts answered this question.

24 answered “Yes.”

94 answered “No.”

134 made indefinite replies.

252

QUESTION 91.—“Have you any contracts for boarding out paupers?”  
(This applies only to districts having no almshouse.)

290 districts answered this question.

165 reported contracts of some kind.

125 reported no contracts.

290

Of the 165 districts reporting contracts,  
68 had written contracts,  
55 reported verbal contracts,  
42 did not specify as to this.

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165

Of the 165 reporting contracts,  
67 made no provision for employment,  
23 provided for employment conditional on the person's be-  
ing able to work,  
75 did not specify as to employment.

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165

QUESTION 102.—“Does out-door relief increase or decrease pauper-  
ism?”

257 districts answered this question.

154 reported “It increases.”

59 reported “It decreases.”

44 reported indefinitely.

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257

QUESTION 103.—“How many out-door paupers have you in districts?”

284 districts answered this question.

142 answered “None.”

142 reported from one to one thousand.

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284

QUESTION 104.—“Is relief given in money or in kind?”

211 districts answered this question.

43 reported money.

86 reported “In kind.”

26 reported part money and part in kind.

56 reported no cases.

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211

QUESTION 105.—“Are money or provisions for relief given, misap-  
plied by recipient?”

250 districts answered this question.

138 reported “No.”

32 reported “Yes.”

80 reports were indefinite.

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250

QUESTION 106.—“What remedy can you suggest?”

212 districts answered this question.

130 replied “No suggestions.”

82 replied “Discontinue out-door relief,” etc.

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212

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QUESTION 107.—“Do you favor a county almshouse system?”

267 districts answered this question.

128 answered, “Yes.”

118 answered, “No.”

21 answered indefinitely.

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266

QUESTION 108.—“Reasons for favoring a county almshouse system?”

37 on account of economy.

20 on account of decrease of pauperism.

3 on account of less “red tape.”

10 on account to avoid litigation.

7 on account of more humane method.

18 on account of the best system.

19 on account to equalize taxation.

14 did not specify reasons.

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128

“Reasons for not favoring a county almshouse system?”

54 on account of economy.

13 on account of better care for poor.

7 on account of liability to become a political machine.

19 on account of the small number of poor in their district.

25 for no reason specified.

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118

QUESTION 110.—“Chief occupation of your district?”

277 districts answered this question.

203 replied farming.

14 replied manufacturing.

16 replied lumbering.

22 replied coal mining.

22 scattering.

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277

QUESTION 111.—“Is pauperism increasing in your district?”

293 districts answered this question.

235 replied, “No.”

51 replied, “Yes.”

7 indefinite.

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293

Of the 51 who replied affirmatively, "causes," were as follows :

- 8 drunkenness and liquors.
- 4 depression of business.
- 4 accidents.
- 3 no work.
- 3 poor "poor laws."
- 1 monopoly.
- 2 bad training of children.
- 4 foreign immigration.
- 22 no reasons assigned.

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51

QUESTION 112.—"Are the laboring people regularly employed?"

286 districts answered this question.

231 answered, "Yes."

55 answered, "No."

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286

Of the "No" answers, the cause of idleness were as follows :

- 16 on account of scarcity of work.
- 13 on account of dullness and uncertainty of coal and coke trades.
- 9 on account of ignorance, laziness and indisposition to work.
- 4 on account of strikes.
- 1 on account of too many foreign laborers.
- 12 made no explanation.

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55

QUESTION 113.—"Have you any free libraries in your district?"

Answers were received from 292 districts.

28 reported "Yes."

264 reported "No."

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292

QUESTION 114.—"Have you any individual or organized charity society to assist the poor of your district?"

278 districts answered this question.

72 reported "Yes."

206 reported "No."

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278



QUESTION 115.—“What have you to suggest in the matter of poor law revision?”

221 districts answered this question.

32 answered, “Introduce county system.”

54 answered, “Satisfied with present laws.”

1 answered, “Prohibit the marriage of paupers.”

5 answered, “Simply settlements.”

1 answered, “Abolish the indenture of children.”

5 answered, “Compel persons responsible to maintain pauper relatives.”

22 answered, “General revision.”

5 answered, “Increased salaries for directors and overseers, with increased powers.”

66 no suggestions.

13 answered, “State care for poor and insane.”

17 indefinite.

221

## REPORT ON POOR LAW OFFICERS.

BY WILLIAM N. APPEL, COMMISSIONER.

*To the Chairman and members of the Poor Law Commission:*

The undersigned begs leave to submit the following report upon the subject referred to him, viz: Poor Law Officers.

*Interrogatory No. 6—Is the Office Elective or Appointive?*

Of those returned 279 are districts under the township overseer system and 23 are counties composing a single poor district.

In six districts (townships) the overseers of the poor are appointed by the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace of the county, and in two districts (county) the directors of the poor are appointed by the same power.

In one district (Renovo borough, Clinton County) it is reported that the overseer have at different times been elected by the people and appointed by the Court of Common Pleas.

In New Castle city, Lawrence County, the overseers are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the select council.

In Jenkins township, Pittston borough and Pittston township, Luzerne County, the overseers are appointed by president judge of Luzerne County.

In Bradford city, McKean County, they are appointed by the mayor and confirmed by the city council.

In the Scranton district the directors of the poor are appointed by the president judge of Lackawanna County, though until very recently the appointing power was supposed to reside in the resident judge of the Luzerne County courts. This complication arose from the division of Luzerne County and the creation of Lackawanna County.

In 293 districts the overseers and directors are elected by the electors of the district.

*Comment*—The returns show that the large proportion favor the election of primary poor law officials. In view of the fact that our Commission will most likely recommend that the township overseer system be abolished and that the county director system be substituted therefor, in all counties of the State, it is recommended that in all cases the directors of the poor be elected by the qualified voters of the county.

*Interrogatory 7—The Time of Election.*

Of those returned 256 districts elect directors or overseers of the poor at the February or Spring election; 21 at the general elections in November.

*Comment.*—Of the 256 districts which elect poor law officers in February or Spring, nearly all are those where the township overseer system prevails.

Those holding the county system have almost invariably held their election at the general election in November.

It is *recommended* that the election for directors of the poor be held in November at the general election, when the fullest expression of the will of the people can be obtained. This recommendation in view, as above stated, of the probable election of the Commission in regard to the abolition of the township overseer system.

*Interrogatory 8—Number of Overseers and Directors.*

Of those returned, 263 districts have two (2) overseers or directors of the poor each, being mostly township districts.

Twenty-five districts have three (3) directors and are mostly county districts.

The district of Allegheny City has thirteen (13) directors and the city of Pittsburgh one chief department of charities. The

Scranton district has seven (7), Bradford city five (5), Philadelphia County, Germantown district, nine, (9); Philadelphia, Lower Dublin, eight (8); Lancaster county, six (6); Luzerne and Westmoreland Counties each five (5); South Bend township, Armstrong County, Renova borough, Clinton County and New Castle, Lawrence County, each one (1), in the latter district the number being fixed by the town council.

*Comment.*—It will be seen that outside the cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allegheny and Scranton, which are necessarily exceptional, the predominate number of overseers in the township districts is two (2), and in the county districts the number predominating largely is three (3). The exceptional number five (5), in Luzerne and Westmoreland and six (6) in Lancaster Counties seems to be uncalled for and unnecessary.

If the county system is adopted by the Commission, three (3) directors of the poor are suggested as an adequate number.

*Interrogatory 8½—Acts of Assembly Governing Election or Appointment of Overseers and Directors of the Poor.*

They are the following, so far as returned: February 21, 1798; April 11, 1807, 1809; March 27, 1817; April 15, 1834; June 13, 1836; June 24, 1839 (3); April 9, 1844; April 11, 1844; April 3, 1851 (5); June 19, 1863, 1866, 1874 (7), 1875; June 4, 1879; June 27, 1881 (15), 1882 (2); June 4, 1883 (16), 1885; June 14, 1887; February 15, 1890. General election law (17). Constitution of 1874, Article 8, Section 3 (15).

*Interrogatory 9—Other Poor Law Officers.*

In regard to this subject, there are few returns. In the counties having almshouses, the directors of the poor usually appoint a treasurer, steward, matron, physician and other attendants. In none of the districts are any of these officials elected.

*Comment.*—It is strongly recommended that the directors of the poor have full power and authority to *appoint* all under-officials and attendants; to employ and discharge them on their discretion thereby placing the full responsibility upon the directors of the poor, who are answerable directly to the people.

*Interrogatory 10—Length of Term of Office.*

Of those returned in 18 districts, the term of office is one (1) year, being mostly township districts.

In 143 districts, the term is two (2) years, being mostly county districts, electing directors of the poor. In 14 districts the term is three (3) years, being mostly county districts electing directors of the poor.

*Interrogatory 10 (Continued)—Salary or Pay of Directors and Overseers.*

On this subject the returns are by no means complete. The following, however, appears:

In 33 districts (township), the overseers receive.....	\$ 1 00	per day.
In 4 " " " " " .....	1 25	"
In 57 " " " " " .....	1 50	"
In 1 district " " " " " .....	1 00	"
In 54 districts (2 county districts included) the overseers to receive.....	2 00	"
In 1 district (township), the overseers to receive.....	2 50	"
In 4 districts (3 county districts included) " .....	3 00	"

Of the above only a few say whether the mileage is included in the pay or not.

In 5 districts (township), the salary is.....	\$ 10 00	per year.
In 6 " " " " " .....	15 00	"
In 6 " " " " " .....	20 00	"
In 3 " " " " " .....	25 00	"
In 1 district " " " " " .....	35 00	"
In 1 " (county) " " " .....	40 00	"
In 2 districts (township), " " " .....	50 00	"
In 2 " " " " " .....	75 00	"
In 7 " (2 county districts included), the salary is...	100 00	"
In 1 district (New Castle, Lawrence Co.) the salary is	600 00	"
In Pittsburgh the salary is.....	4000 00	"
In 4 districts (township) return that the overseers receive no salary.		

*Comment.*—Upon this subject I beg leave to suggest that perhaps it might be a wise provision to give the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace of the district (county) authority to fix the compensation of the directors of the poor. In this manner the compensation of the directors might be made reasonable and fair instead of as now, conspicuously unfair and inadequate. If this can be so arranged as not to controvene the provision of the Constitution, which forbids local or special legislation, I believe it



would be an improvement. This is the extent of the ground covered by the interrogatories sent me for examination. In brief, I am in favor—

1. Of the total abolition of the township overseer system and of making each county a separate and entire poor district. Of course I know in this matter special attention will have to be given to the cities of Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Allegheny, and possibly Scranton, which are in the very nature of the case exceptional.

2. I am in favor of *three* (3) directors of the poor for each county district.

3. That the said directors be *elected* by the qualified voters of the district and that the time for holding said election be at the general elections in November.

4. That the term of each director of the poor be *three* (3) years, one director to be elected each year.

5. That the salary or compensation be fixed by the Court of Quarter Sessions of the Peace of the judicial district to which said county (district) may belong.

6. That all other officials, such as stewards, matrons, wardens, physicians, attorneys, treasurers, clerks and attendants, be employed by the directors of the poor at their discretion.

Respectfully submitted,

WILLIAM N. APPEL,

LANCASTER, Oct. 18, 1890.

*Commissioner.*

## REPORT ON POORHOUSE ADMINISTRATION.

BY E. D. MARSH, COMMISSIONER.

*To the Poor Law Commission:*

I have examined with some care and study the tabulated statements from the various reports covering the poor law districts of this Commonwealth, and taking the subjects somewhat in their order as appears upon these tables, I find they simply disclose the experience of the different localities which is principally dependent upon their system, or the industries of that locality, or both.

Upon the subject of able-bodied paupers, there are a few that report them as being cared for; Franklin County is one of them, and reports a few kept for protection against their own vicious habits; Walker township, in Susquehanna County, assist some—on account of the lameness of the law they cannot escape it. Lackawanna County reports four on account of “intemperate habits.” They earn their board on the poor farm. Lehigh County reports about fifteen ignorant who are unable to take care of themselves; Stroud township, in Monroe County, reports three, no cause given; Northampton county reports twenty-one, because rum eats up the income of the summer, and in winter they return; Northumberland borough reports one kept as an attendant because he won’t work at anything else; Greene township, in Pike County, reports three because they won’t work; Beaver township, in Snyder County, reports one—“bad habits caused by drink.” With the exception of those who are ignorant or feeble-minded, it is plain to be seen that liquor and its attendant evil is the primary cause of their pauperism.

Upon the question “any trouble to discharge able-bodied paupers,” the majority report that they have no trouble; and yet there are exceptions, as South Buffalo township, in Armstrong county, reports simply “one now,” but it is not specified the particular difficulty. Parker township, in Butler County, answers to this question, “yes, but send them where their settlement is.” Howard township, in Centre County, answers this question by saying “some trouble, provide work and cease to give relief.” Monroe township, in Clarion County, says “when once they become a charge they enjoy soft soup and are fixed for the balance of life.” Perry township, in same county, says “people do not want to hire them;” Woodward township, in Clinton County, says “yes, we turn them out any way we can.” In some of the districts they answer that they discharge them upon certificate by one or more physicians that they are able to earn a living, and it is also stated in some cases that they soon return again upon certificate from a justice. In one instance, Roulett township, in Potter county, they say that a brother of a pauper has brought suit for his support. In this instance an allowance had been made to the brother for the support of the pauper, and it had been withheld or they had declined to give further relief. In connection with this subject,

"the able-bodied paupers," it may be noted that with but one single exception has there a district reported that they required a "work test," and that is Castanea township, in Clinton County, but what that test is, is not stated. It would seem that some provision should be embraced in the law, or at least authority should be given those upon whom the administration of poor relief devolves, to require those whom they may find to be able-bodied, sufficiently at least to do manual labor, to follow the divine injunction, "in the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread," and my own opinion is that no more salutary method can be found to compel those able to work who seem to have a decided aversion to labor, than proper confinement, with rations only after reasonable labor.

Upon the question of "what indoor class is most troublesome," the answers are as varied as are the classes under their charge, some answering the aged, some the insane, some the simple-minded, and others the lying-in cases. Of the latter there are reported 159 cases occurring during the past year. A majority of the districts report that they bind out poor children, and that they obtain consent of the justices, but a few do not obtain such consent, and a few answer that consent of a justice is not required by the law of their district.

I find during the past year that 100 are reported as having been bound out, and there are several hundred reported as not bound out. Some of them board with families, some with parents and some are in the various charitable institutions. Nearly all of them report that the children under 16 years of age are sent to public schools.

Upon the subject of almshouses there are 35 districts reporting almshouses. One reports that they rent a building and about 20 or 30 acres of land. One, the borough of Sunbury, reports an almshouse with one acre of land, and that they can accommodate 25 inmates.

The farms in connection with the poorhouses range generally from 150 to 400 acres, although in one instance a farm of 700 acres is reported, and the inmates in these almshouses vary from a few to several hundred each, and of the aggregate number there are but comparatively few under 16 years of age. The employment is nearly as varied as are the reports, and little attention is

given to training them in manual labor or practical education. The support of inmates in other institutions is principally confined to those of insane or derauged minds. In only one instance is it reported that the almshouses have any by-laws. Upon the subject of superintendent, a request was sent in asking that a person be elected and not appointed by the directors; but this does not seem to meet the approval of the majority of those to whom the subject was presented, as the directors are elected and are responsible to their district for poor law administration. It would seem to rest upon good sound logic that they have the absolute appointment of the superintendent, and then they are justly held responsible for his conduct.

The subject of paupers that do not seem to belong to any particular locality has received considerable discussion at our hands, and doubtless no allusion in extended way from me is necessary.

I append hereto extracts from the Massachusetts Law, being sections 18, 20 and 21, which bear somewhat upon this subject. Some provision of this kind it would seem to be quite necessary, as is stated by Mr. Geo. H. Smith, through whose kindness this has been sent to me. It would seem that Pennsylvania is behind many of the other States upon this subject.

The matter referred to for my particular consideration being "Poorhouse Administrations," I would summarize as follows:

1st. That the weight of evidence is in favor of poor districts, composed of counties, with possibly an exception made in favor of very large cities which might be separate districts by themselves.

2d. That the management of the district should be entrusted to directors elected at a general election, and their number to be three or five.

3d. That each district should have an "almshouse," with a suitable amount of land attached, in order that it may be as near self-sustaining as possible.

4th. That the care of the almshouses and land attached thereto, should be entrusted to a superintendent appointed by the directors.

5th. That an institution owned and controlled by the State should be provided, to which should be sent those paupers and indigent persons that do not seem to belong to any particular locality or have no recognized settlement.



6th. That proper provision should be made for the care of those of unsound mind or in any way mentally deformed, by which proper care and education in a practical way would be the result.

Very respectfully, etc.,

W. ED. MARSH.

CORRY, PA., October 31, 1890.

## APPENDIX.

SECTION 18. Each town may, and every town containing five thousand or more inhabitants shall, make all needful provisions and arrangements concerning children under sixteen years of age who, by reason of the neglect, crime, drunkenness, or other vices of parents, or from orphanage, are suffered to be growing up without salutary parental control and education, or in circumstances exposing them to lead idle and dissolute lives, and may also make all such by-laws respecting such children as shall be deemed most conducive to their welfare and the good order of the city or town.

SEC. 20. A justice of the peace, magistrate, or court of record, upon proof that any child under sixteen years of age, by reason of orphanage, or of the neglect, crime, drunkenness, or other vice of parents, is so growing up may order such child to such institution of instruction, or other place assigned for the purpose, as may be provided by the town or county in which such child resides, to be there kept, educated and cared for, for a term not exceeding beyond the age of twenty-one years for boys or eighteen years for girls.

SEC. 21. When the parents of a child committed under the preceding section have reformed and are leading orderly and industrious lives, and are in a condition to exercise salutary parental control over such child, and to provide it with proper education and employment, or when said parents being dead, any person offers to make provision for the care, nurture and education of such child as will conduce to the public welfare, and will give security for the performance of the same satisfactory to the directors, trustees, overseers, or other board, having charge of the institution to which such child is committed, they may discharge it to the parents or to such other person.

*The President:* We would be glad to hear any remarks any member of the Convention may have to make in regard to the papers just read.

*Mr. Gould, (Erie):* The district to which I belong has given to this Commission much of what we have thought upon the subject, and I am very much gratified to find that all of the good features of our own district and other districts with which I am familiar have been incorporated in their recommendations. I believe that the Commission has conscientiously performed the duties assigned to it, and I hope for much good to grow out of it, because I find, as my judgment goes in the workings of the poor houses, they have incorporated the good and eliminated the bad. There are many features in this work that they have grasped, and I think successfully. There is one feature, however, that the Commission have reported upon I think both ways, and it is one of those things that is hard to meet, and that is the question of out-door relief. Now, I recognize all the truths and facts and evils growing out of it that are spoken of by Mr. Hill, and yet I recognize that the rigid rule suggested there is next to impracticable, and will work a great deal of hardship. I recognize, and have known of one instance where the giving of out-door relief was used for political purposes, as suggested by him, but my opinion is that we have got to give in the administration of the poor laws of this State quite a large latitude for out-door relief, and that we should look to the good sense, best judgment, large humanity of the men whom we elect, and women, too, for I am glad to see that they are coming into it; their broad humanity in dealing with this question. I tell you it is almost criminal to go down to the iron rule and say that here is a poor woman who has been thrown upon the charity of the people, to say that she has either got to beg or take her children to the almshouse, one who has done good all her life but has met with misfortune, and to say that she shall become a public, notorious receiver of alms. We have got to draw the line somewhere, and I think that largely it should be left to the good sense and best judgment of wise and discreet persons charged with the administration of the poor in this out-door relief, and if it is abused the people can remedy it. A little public indignation and an election will cure all that evil

very soon when it is known, and while there may be abuses growing out of it, I think there may be more evils growing out of the rigid iron rule as suggested here. (Applause.)

*Dr. Hilman, (Beaver):* I agree most heartily with the gentleman. We have a board of three directors, one elected annually by the people at the regular election in the fall; we have an almshouse there that I think will compare favorably with any in the State in the manner in which it is kept and the method in which the expenditures are made. We are directed as to physicians in the matter of out-door relief; each physician has a district. I know something about it, because I am one of them. I have seen men and women, who through no fault of their own, through misfortunes that sometime may come to any of us, reduced to beggary for the time being. We have tided them over for a little while. You take a child from a family that through misfortune has become poor, and put him in an almshouse, it is a taint upon him, and it is cast up to him that he is a pauper. I am opposed to what the gentleman has read to us about Whitechapel. The conditions there have no more to do with the townships of our broad State than winter has to do with summer. There is no comparison between the intelligence of the American people and that of the habitues of Whitechapel, in London. The trouble with us here is that we give the people from over there a chance to vote before we give them a chance to understand the law. My boy at sixteen years old, I think, is more intelligent than a man who has been here three years and cannot read or write. Let us stick to our American liberality, let us take care of the indigent poor. Just as soon as a party is capable of taking care of himself, then we let him do it. We will maintain them for a short period of time, and if it is necessary to send them to the almshouse we do so, but we can help them for a month or a year or two. Gentlemen, I am opposed to the abolition of out-door relief. (Applause.)

*Mr. Sheppard, (Schuylkill county):* I have listened to the report with a great deal of pleasure as read here, and it generally meets with my hearty approval. We, living in a coal region, know something about this out-door relief. Undoubtedly there is much imposition practised under the system of out-door relief,

but I am afraid that the rigid rule, as my friend suggested here, would work much suffering if it was adopted. I grant, taking the theory of the gentleman's paper, if there was the right sort of education among the people, there would be no necessity for poor-houses at all, and if we could get to that point we would then have the banner county of the State, if we could have no poor-houses and no poor but what are taken care of by the charity of the people. But we will never get to that, we will never reach that point, and therefore there will have to be charity dispensed. Now, why do we take the children out of the almshouse? Why is it that every man and woman in this country is opposed to having children spend their time in the almshouse? It is because it puts a stigma upon them which will go with them for life. We oppose it, and provide a home to take care of them. The women of that locality and the good matron of that home, with the assistance of other ladies there, take care of every child who has been taken to that poor-house or is likely to be taken there. Most assuredly there would be great objection if the law was carried into effect as it is stated, when it is known that their bodies would be furnished to an institution to be handled by medical students. This report is an excellent one, a most excellent report. The provisions that have been made there to prevent imposition, to prevent fraud upon the taxpayer, are good; all the safeguards are thrown around that possibly could be thought of, but I think that rule as to out-door relief is too rigorous. I think the suggestion of the gentleman's report is good that we should do away with the justices of the peace who are acting in cases, perhaps for their fees in many instances, and let the application be made, as I understand, direct to the directors of the poor, and let them be the court with competent jurisdiction to act and determine the matter. But I do feel that the prohibition to the extent that that report calls for would work suffering in the State. Now, I do not know whether the gentleman ascertained, when he refers to Whitechapel, whether the suffering decreased in that district, or whether it was simply a decrease in the number at the poor-house of the district. There are people who would never go to the poor-house, we know. In our own community there are those who would die of starvation before they would enter the portals of that institution. Therefore, the record before us as to the



decrease in the institution is no evidence whatsoever of the decrease of suffering. There are many people who have lived a life of comfort in the community and who have met with adversity, who would not under any circumstances go to the poor-house, and would die of starvation if the people of their locality did not take care of them, and the people would never know it except those who lived in the community where the party resides. This matter is one of great moment, and should be considered very carefully before it is praised by the representatives of the poor throughout this great State. (Applause.)

*Mr. Schofield*, (Centre County): Ladies and Gentlemen, I come from a town that makes Governors; Bellfonte, Centre County, and I have heard that distinguished gentleman's report, and it would seem to me unfair to go home and not get up and allow my voice to be heard. In our county we cannot have a poor-house, for the simple reason that there is an imaginary line drawn in our county, and on the other side of that line are farmers, and they have comparatively few poor people. On the manufacturing side, the coal side, the lumber side and iron ore side we have many poor people, of course. The poor are increasing in our town. The overseers in the discharge of their duties are using their offices for political purposes. I have been elected the third time, not wanting it all the time, of course. Ten years ago we had some 2,035 people assisted by the overseers of the borough; they cost the people of the borough at Bellfonte between six and seven thousand dollars, and six or seven years ago as high as nine thousand dollars, running from ten dollars up to two hundred dollars for a single person, and when there were one or two persons in the family, from two hundred to three hundred dollars. We have what is called the double system of two overseers of a borough. We have two overseers in every township of the county, some twenty-seven or twenty-five, if I am correct. We have two overseers in each township, a vicious system for boroughs, but not quite so bad for townships, for the reason that in Centre County we have some townships ten miles long and six miles wide, and there the farmers elect a responsible person to act as overseer. We have two overseers in each borough to take the people's funds at the instance of some person who wants to be elected and use it

for political purposes. After all that has been done the law clothes the overseer with a great power ; it gives him the right to judge after the order of two justices of the peace, it directs him to examine whether such and such person is entitled to relief. I have refused some orders for relief signed by two justices of the peace, at the instance of Court. I knew what the persons were seeking to do. They wanted to have funds and to use the highest authority in the borough to help them through a scheme. I would refuse any order, if I did not believe the person entitled to it. The overseer is elected to examine into the cases of persons applying for relief, and he is the judge, after all. In our own borough a person would not have to walk over half-a-mile to see an overseer in the borough. It would take five or ten minutes for a person to find the overseer. Two years ago my average list for out-door relief for sixty or seventy persons ran from \$4 up to \$200, including doctors' bills and such. I wish to recommend to the Commission this point : I find in looking over my colleague's report not over four persons out of twenty-seven assisted had not already been receiving relief for four or five years. These persons saw fit to go to the other overseer and he began to draw orders. He refused to divide the power with me. He refused to give me a monthly report of the persons he relieved. I knew well what he refused it for ; it is well known to the people of the borough, yet we have no remedy. It is only when we come around to his next two-year term that we have a chance. There are twenty-seven names assisted on his list, running as high as \$150. One person \$156, who got \$30 or \$40 from me two months previous. He gives to one individual in nine months \$156. The people should be guarded against extravagance on the part of any individual. There were four names on that list that had not applied to me at any time, and that he relieved ; hence I took the ground that he had just relieved just four persons, and yet it cost over a thousand dollars to give the twenty-seven persons relief, eleven hundred and some dollars. I raise this point to show the Commission that we should have one overseer in boroughs, at least where we haven't a county almshouse. If the county had an almshouse we might have been able to deal with some of those cases. Under the present arrangement in our county we never can get an almshouse unless the population

rapidly grows on our side. One thing I desire to call the Commissioner's attention to, and I think that the gentleman will bear me out on this, if I mistake not, that the report says that the auditors should be elected in large districts, say two or three counties. Well, that would be a pretty thing! We would never tolerate that twenty-four minutes. We are Americans on that point. I would not tolerate any gentleman from Clinton county auditing the accounts of Centre county. We select gentlemen of talent in Bellfonte, and education and responsibility to audit our accounts. We do not care whether he is a Republican or a Democrat, if he is a proper person. The board is composed sometimes of two Democrats and one Republican, but very frequently it is composed entirely of Republicans, because our borough is largely Republican; hence, if we elect a Democrat as an overseer he is examined, and his accounts are examined thoroughly, and the items gone over. We are obliged to keep an account with every pauper, and their names are regularly entered, and we have a voucher for every dollar that an order is drawn for. We care not who the auditors may be, as far as that is concerned, but we would want the auditors of our borough to receive the funds, because they belong to our borough. Another thing, the auditors of a county or a borough should always audit the accounts, because they are familiar with the person's signature and the persons receiving the money. I have another point to call the attention of the Commission to, and that is this: We have property that we ought to be able to sell. Overseers sometimes get hold of property. We are not clothed under the present requirements to sell it; we have no power to sell. We would like that power. Another point I would like to ask, that this Commission embody in their report a recommendation for a general law giving the privilege to every county to have a poor-house without submitting it to a vote; that where there are boroughs in the county, that we have only one overseer elected. That would be an improvement over the present arrangement. (Applause.)

*Mr. McGonnigle, (Pittsburgh):* Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not know why it is, but somehow whenever you say "out-door relief," everybody commences to talk. The report which Mr. Hill has read speaks about the directors and their duties, but there



has not been anything said about the out-door relief. I want to say this, that if any members of the Association have the idea that the Commission is going to recommend that out-door relief should not be granted, they are mistaken. As I take it, we do not propose to recommend anything of the kind, but do propose to recommend certain restrictions and certain rules and regulations to provide for the improper use of out-door relief, and to restrict its granting to just such cases as are proper. As matters now are there appears to be no line drawn at all, and it is simply our intention to try and get the distribution of out-door relief into something like systematic shape, and much can be said on both sides. It is a question that never has been settled yet, and I do not suppose it ever will be. My own idea is that out-door relief can be, and is very much abused. Out-door relief is something that we cannot entirely discontinue the granting of, but we must restrict its granting to the proper cases, and not allow indiscriminate uses, which lead to abuse. I simply want to make this statement, so that the members of the Association won't be under the impression that the Commission are going to recommend anything that is going to create hardship on any particular person, but it is a very difficult matter to draw the line so that all sides of the question will be properly met, and that is what we want to try to do. (Applause.)

*Mr. Spiegel*, (Westmoreland County): As I understand this report which is before this Convention and which has brought me from Westmoreland County to this Convention, leaving a busy office, is simply to suggest or recommend measures not only as to outdoor relief, but all the features and phases of our poor law. I perhaps can illustrate no better my remarks than to cite this Convention to the manner and methods we have adopted in Westmoreland County. That county is a poor district; we have an almshouse there; we have five directors, elected by the people for two years at a salary of \$200 a year. The salary is arranged on the basis in proportion to the population. The census of 1890 will give our directors \$250 a year. Now, Mr. Chairman, I can give you this illustration to show you that I think our system at Westmoreland County is as nearly a perfect system as we can possibly get at under the present exist-



ing laws. Now, then, in the matter of election of directors, it may be better, perhaps, to have only three; that is a question for the people, whether three directors can manage the poor affairs of a county of 115,000 population better than five, is a question for the people. We have five, elected for two years, a new board every two years go into office on the first of January. They have two meetings a month, at which all bills come under their supervision. They transact all business relative to indoor and outdoor affairs. Now, Mr. Chairman, we have had some trouble with outdoor relief, and I think a perfect system is impossible. We have two classes of people in our county; here is a large class of mining population, and they have to be closely watched. There is a Hungarian element that if they find out the poor board will help them, if they have five or six thousand dollars in the house they will get relief if possible and send the money across. But there is outdoor relief in cases of this kind, and we have had a number of them. Here is Mrs. A. Her husband has died, and perhaps she has four or five children, and just at this time they are in circumstances that they need outdoor relief for a while. I have advised our board of directors to give them outdoor relief for a short time, until they can get on a proper footing again and get a decent living for the family. We have tried that in a number of instances, where we have given it for three months, and after that they have asked to have it cut off. They do not like to go to the poor home and become paupers. We all have a certain pride about us and adhere to that pride, and as long as we can keep that pride we will do it. By the director going there and looking at the family he can quietly give it relief, so that in three or four months it will be on a footing again, and I think that is perfectly right. My experience has been that a good school board always brings about a good system of instruction, and a good class of teachers; it organizes a system of discipline, and it encourages good wages and everything of the kind, and I would recommend to the people of Pennsylvania that a good poor board brings about a good system with regard to its poor. Our directors go to every person on the out-door relief book and see who need relief, and they say this one needs relief, and that one must be cut off, and we keep only those on the books who are actually getting out-door relief.

I hold that a good poor board can bring about almost a perfect system, if they do their duty. There is another thing that has been worrying us, in regard to undertakers, especially in a county like ours. They come in with bills for fifteen and twenty dollars for burying paupers. We have passed rules and regulations by which our poor board is guided, and the rules have been sanctioned by the Court of Westmoreland County, and we give notice to all undertakers and to the doctors, and to everybody who has any interest in the poor that we pay so much for a coffin, for the burial, and that we have doctors here and there and all over the district, and if any other doctor comes into the district where we have a doctor, and tries to trump up a large bill upon us, we refuse to pay it. There is another point that ought to be discussed, that of having outside doctors come into a district and trump up large bills. Sometimes they come in with bills a hundred dollars at a time. We must take care of our poor, and it is largely in the discretion of the poor board, but where we have nice little children whose support is only their fathers or mothers, who are unable to work, I say we should try and help them along in the world where they are, and lift them up. That is the object of the poor board, to educate them and help them in every particular they possibly can, in order that some day they may become, perhaps, our brightest and greatest men of the State. The idea of putting them into a county home is a mistaken one. I say if we can keep them home they should be kept there, and it is the duty of the poor directors to see that these families are kept together and not separated, as long as they can possibly be. I think our system is as nearly perfect as it is possible to have it.

*Mr. McGonnigle, (Pittsburgh):* I move that when half-past eleven arrives we take recess and go to the almshouse and meet there at 2 o'clock. Agreed to.

*Mr. Colborn, (Somerset County):* I desire to make a report to this Convention of the time and place of meeting of our next Convention:

We, the undersigned, the Committee to select a time and place of meeting for next year's convention, would respectfully report

that we have selected Erie as the place, and the 2d Tuesday of October as the time, to recommend to this Convention.

L. C. COLBORN,  
D. H. ROSS,  
W. H. GUY,  
J. A. WITHERSPOON,  
E. P. GOULD.

The report was received.

*Dr. Schultz*, (Berks County) moved that the name of Reading be substituted for Erie.

*Mr. Armstrong*, (Bedford County) moved that the name of Bedford be substituted for Erie. Lost.

A vote was taken on the motion of *Dr. Schultz* to substitute Reading for Erie, which was agreed to.

On motion a recess was taken to meet at the Lancaster Almshouse at 2 P. M.

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### AFTERNOON SESSION, 2 O'CLOCK,

IN THE CHAPEL OF THE LANCASTER COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

*The President*: The Convention will please come to order. Before the recess the Convention had under discussion the report of the Poor Law Commission. The discussion will now be resumed.

*Mr. Brumbaugh*, (Blair County): Mr. Chairman, I presume there are new members in this Convention who do not properly understand what this Commission is. Two or three persons who have spoken to me supposed that the debate was on the adoption of the report as presented by the Commission. That is not the purpose. We are only receiving suggestions upon this legislative commission and I presume the Convention would like to be made right on that before it discusses this subject further.

*The President*: As I understand it is for the purpose of procuring all the data possible in regard to the poor laws of the commonwealth and endeavor to formulate from them a new poor law, to be uniform as far as practicable through the entire State. The

Commission have prepared the report which you have heard this morning. It is before you at this time for examination, for suggestion, for improvement, for modification, and the Commission, I have no doubt, would be glad to receive any practical suggestion from this Convention, so that their work may be as perfect as possible when presented to the Legislature in the form of a bill.

*Mr. Brumbaugh, (Blair County):* I believe that this Commission has accomplished a great work in getting a uniform law for the State. You will observe from its report that the poor laws of the State are almost as various as the different counties of the State, and their suggestions are in the right direction. There are a few suggestions, however, and there are a few things in their report that I cannot indorse; but the majority of the report is a very wise and good one, and if it were enacted into a law would result in great good to our Commonwealth. One of the suggestions was that the salaries of the poor directors should be regulated by the Judges of the different Judicial Districts of the State. I believe that it should be regulated by the population of the different counties. The Directors of the Poor of the larger counties should receive a larger compensation for their services, while those of the smaller counties in a ratio according to the population.

Another suggestion was made by my friend Mr. McGonnigle, and that is that each poor-board should have the privilege of adopting rules and regulations. I believe that this bill when it is presented to the Legislature should be a full and complete bill, regulating the poor laws and giving directions to the Poor Directors throughout the State; that we do not need to have by-laws and regulations to be adopted by the Boards and approved by the Judge of the Court. In that way my objection to that is this, that each Judge or Poor Board might have different by-laws and regulations, while I think there could be a uniformity in these. Now, there has been at every convention a great deal said about out-door relief. There are two sides to this case. I believe that the gentleman who made this report this morning, who has given such a thorough investigation of the subject, who not only examined into it in this country but in London, and whose report is confirmed by statistics, is strongly in favor of the abolition of out-door relief, and I believe that the sooner we get at that the better



it will be and the less paupers we will have in the State. Wherever this has been adopted, in Boston, in Germantown and in the Whitechapel district already referred to, it has been very beneficial, and in Philadelphia, if you will examine the first report of the Board of Charities you will find that over \$110,000 were distributed, while at this time there are no appropriations for out-door relief direct. And you will find in the counties that come nearest to it, that they are succeeding better with very little out-door relief than in those counties where they give large out-door relief. I believe that the law suggested by Mr. McGonnigle, who has given this part of the subject a great deal of attention, should be restricted, and the bill should be very carefully prepared, so as to enable them to carefully guard this giving of out-door relief.

Now, as to the signing of the order by two justices. I believe that that should be abolished. I believe that the Poor Directors should have the whole control of the matter, and to examine carefully into every case that may be presented for out-door relief, so that they can not be imposed upon. I know from my experience, which covers at least ten years, that there is a great deal of imposition. The justice is honest, perhaps, but he makes out the order of relief upon the suggestion of some person who brings it before him, and this person takes it to another justice, and both sign, and that is presented to the Board, and in very many cases the Board is imposed upon. There are a number of other features in this report that I would like to talk upon, but there may be other gentlemen on the floor who wish to take their part and discuss it.

*Mr. Colborn, (Somerset County):* Mr. Chairman, I listened with a very great deal of interest to the report of the Commission, and also to the remarks of the gentlemen from various parts of the State. I am pleased to see that many of the recommendations made by the Commission are embodied in our laws; we look upon them as very good and wise provisions, and think they should be adopted in this new law that is about to be presented. Our county about 1862 or 1863 was put in this special law that required the order of one justice to commit to the poor-house. Our county being a rural county, our justices being scattered, it

was sometimes a very difficult matter to hunt them up, in order to commit a party to the poorhouse, hence the repeal of that law requiring two justices to write out an order for commitment of a person to the poorhouse. Our county is large, our townships are large, and oftentimes justices live as far as eight or ten miles apart. This Commission I had expected would present to this Convention a bill which they expect to present to the Legislature next winter to be enacted into a law. The recommendations they have made, I believe, with the exception of perhaps two, we have in our law, our special law under which we are incorporated. I do not agree with the recommendations in regard to auditing of accounts of the Poor Directors, that auditors should be elected who would audit the accounts of several Poor Boards in a certain district. I do not believe in the appointment of a committee to dispense public charity, instead of the Poor Board throughout those districts as was recommended. I think these matters ought to be wholly in the hands of the Directors of the Poor. The Directors of the Poor, as I have already said, their duty is one of love; they ought not to seek the office for the emoluments of the position; a higher motive ought to direct them. And when they do seek it for any other motive it is a selfish and not an honorable one. In relation to the abolition of out-door relief I did not understand as some of the gentlemen have supposed here before us, but it was to cut off a great deal of relief that is being given out now to persons not deserving the charity of the people. Franklin said "The more provision you make for the poor, the less disposed they are to help themselves," and that is the case to-day. As long as we extend the invitation to people to help them, the more they will look for that help, and the less they will be disposed to help themselves. That is the general rule, and it holds good to-day, as it did in the days of Franklin. The great obstacle that this Commission will have to contend with in the management of a general law are the various local laws throughout the State. Some are good, some are defective in many respects, but just how to get rid of these local laws and adopt a general law is the question that ought to receive the attention of this Poor Law Commission. Now, these are some of my views. The gentleman who read the most excellent report this morning spoke about the various names of the poorhouses and almshouses throughout the

State. They ought to be known as one name. We speak of a home here, a poorhouse there, an almshouse there, a charitable institution here. You hardly know what they mean, yet after all they may be poorhouses, and perhaps governed by the same laws here as they are over there. There ought to be a recommendation on this. I have no fears but what this Commission, after they have heard the various views of the Directors of the Poor throughout the State, may be enabled to enact a law under which we all can unite.

*Mr. Gould, (Erie County):* This Poor Law Commission have given a large amount of work to this, and are doing the best they know how, and we should resolve that we will go home and build up a public sentiment in our community that shall cause the legislators in our various localities to pass the bill that they propose to the Legislature. It is better to have a uniform law that we can in time all come under, and get that law upon the statute-books as soon as possible, and I think that we had better resolve to do that.

*A member:* If there is one thing in Pennsylvania that we are suffering from to-day, it is too much law. We have got too many Acts of Assembly, and the Commission that has been appointed by this Convention to present a law to govern the State of Pennsylvania can do it on one sheet of paper. All the other laws we have. We need but one thing; it is not law, it is simply a general act to cover the whole State, and then but one thing more. We want honest men to enforce that law. I do not care what law you have, if there are no honest men at the back of it you might as well wipe it from the statute-book. In Chester County we have a good law, and in respect to the officers which enforce it, let me say to you, although I have heard it said in this Convention that Montgomery County stands at the head, we stand up about the top somewhere, and we would be glad to have you all come down there and see our almshouse and see the condition we are in and the smooth manner in which we glide along in the enforcement of the law, with which we have no trouble. The law under which we are working is a success.



*Mr. Spiegel* (Westmoreland County): I desire to offer the following resolutions:

1st. *Resolved*, That there should be a general Poor Law for the State—a uniform Poor Law.

2d. That each and every county of this Commonwealth shall constitute a single poor district, and that each county composing such poor district have a county home.

3rd. That all almshouses, poorhouses and homes of employment shall hereafter be known and be incorporated as “The County Home.”

4th. That the Poor Board shall consist of three members, elected by the people of the respective counties, to serve for a term of three years—one Director elected every year.

5th. That the salary of the members of the Poor Board shall be based on the population of the respective counties.

6th. That the members of the several Poor Boards shall have entire control of the County Home and County Home premises, also to have entire control of the poor of the district, *including in-door and out-door relief*.

7th. That the several Poor Boards of the State shall be empowered to set apart a certain amount of money from the county fund, which in the judgment of the members of the several boards will be sufficient to run the current expenses of the County Home for the year.

8th. That the commitment of the poor by order of justices of the peace be repealed, and the matter of commitment be left entirely to the several Poor Boards.

9th. That the Poor Boards of the several poor districts be empowered to make such agreements with the several Children’s Aid Societies of the State as the several Poor Boards may deem right, proper and just for the education, protection and compensation of all children sent from the County Homes of the State to the several Children’s Aid Societies.

10th. That the members of the Poor Board be empowered to frame such rules, regulations and by-laws necessary for the management of the several County Homes of the State.

The resolutions were taken up *seriatim*, and after some discussion were adopted.



*Mr. Gould, (Erie County):* I have two resolutions I desire to present, one written and the other will be verbal. The first will be at the request of several of the delegates from the western part of the State, and I am very glad to present this resolution, for I am heartily in accord with it.

*Resolved,* That the Committee on Legislation be directed to prepare a bill providing for the erection of an institution for the care of feeble-minded children in the western end of the State, and to have the same presented at the next session of the Legislature. Agreed to.

*Mr. Roney, (Philadelphia):* I desire to offer the following amendment: "And the same system shall afford adequate protection and training for feeble-minded women."

*Mr. Gould, (Erie County):* I accept that. I desire to offer this resolution, and I think it is due to the ladies present that it be adopted, that we devote at least one-half hour of this session to the discussion of the questions presented by the ladies at last evening's session. Agreed to.

*Mr. Roney, (Philadelphia):* On the question of tramps, in Philadelphia we have the House of Correction, and they attend to that business. I would like to have the views of the gentlemen here who are bothered with tramps on the border counties, and see what disposition they would like us to make of the tramps.

*The President:* In the programme submitted for the government of the Convention, it is provided that Mr. Roney read a paper at this session.

*Mr. Roney, (Philadelphia):*

## CRIPPLED AND DEFORMED CHILDREN IN ALMS- HOUSES—WHAT SHALL WE DO WITH THEM?

Other places in the world may boast of their royal palaces and magnificent works of art, but Pennsylvania may well pride herself upon her Christian benevolence. Earnest thinking men and women have wrestled with the poverty problem long and unceasingly to attain this result. To deal with poverty and misfortune in all its forms, is fraught with many difficulties. Ample provision, both public and private, is made for the indigent; the

deaf and dumb; the blind; the insane; the orphans and the friendless children; the incorrigible and the drunkard; the feeble-minded and idiotic. In fact, our charities are too numerous and broad in their scope to be briefly noticed. Great attention, particularly, has been bestowed upon the care of children. For the training of the feeble-minded too much praise cannot be bestowed. Establishments for this purpose mark the progress of an enlightened community, and reflect more real glory on their founders and patrons than could ever be bestowed upon a whole army of Alexanders or Napoleons.

But with all these charities, there is a class, the crippled and deformed children, not properly provided for. Why these unfortunates should be excluded from provisions made for other children I cannot understand. Of course their defects demand more care, but for this reason they should not be debarred the advantages accorded others. Argument is unnecessary to prove the inhumanity of rearing children in almshouses. Then why the crippled and deformed? I take it that so long as the mental faculty of the child is sound, it is entitled to all the considerations shown the more fortunate physically perfect. By relegating these unfortunates to the almshouses, or to the constant association of idiots or the feeble-minded, society is the loser, because the early training stamps the future life; and instead of becoming what is possible, in many instances, at least self-supporting, they remain, for life, a charge upon the community. Might as well expect good results by confining juvenile offenders with hardened criminals. History proves numberless instances of the brightest intellects with a deformed or crippled body. It needs but the proper association, training, development.

Now, then, the question is, what shall we do with the crippled and deformed children? I would suggest to place them in the homes provided for other children. It may be said their deformities tend to demoralize the other children. A mistaken idea. Proper instruction, constant association, would soon teach them to regard with pity, sympathy and a kindly feeling their unfortunate companions. While they may require some special care and attention, I do not think separate wards a necessity. Daily contact with the other children would be beneficial, and could not but have, eventually, improving intellectual effects. In my

opinion a "Children's Home" is a misnomer, unless it receives, cares for and educates these unfortunates.

Possibly the expense may be somewhat more than for other children, but is it true charity, on the score of economy, to permit a child, mentally perfect, with possibilities of some future usefulness and comparative happiness, to be consigned to oblivion by surrounding it with the evil influences and degrading associations of the almshouse, because of a physical imperfection?

Our charities though broad, will not be broad enough until homes for children shall include the crippled and deformed. I would, therefore, recommend that the Acts of Assembly providing for the maintenance of children in the various homes, be amended—or if they do fully cover the ground—be enforced so as to include this class, and in all future legislation on the subject, the crippled and deformed be included.

*The President:* At last evening's session a resolution was offered, and after some discussion the further consideration of it was postponed until to-day. We have gone through with the business on the schedule of the morning, and it would now naturally come up for discussion. The resolution was to the effect that a committee of three be appointed, who, jointly with the Committee on Legislation, are to take proper action on the recommendations contained in the reports from the various Children's Aid Societies. By taking this postponed resolution up at this time, and making a motion to indefinitely postpone its consideration, it will bring up the entire question and open it for discussion.

*Mr. Snyder, (Philadelphia):* I move that it be indefinitely postponed. Agreed to.

*Mr. Gould, (Erie):* I would suggest that the ladies now bring before the Convention such questions as they desire to present, and give their views.

*Mrs. Bailey, (Chester County):* I am exceedingly glad that this hour has come. We have worked very hard, and do all we know how and try and learn better methods, and we are very glad to have a consultation or discussion on the subject which interests us here. Now, in our report from Chester County the subject was mentioned of having a home for those children of very vicious habits or parentage, who need some reformation before they go into



respectable families. We have been at a loss ever since our work began to know exactly what to do. The children seem too young to send to a house of correction or house of refuge, some little boys not more than 10 years old so undisciplined that no family will have them; they are taken and returned to us over and over again. What shall we do with them?

*Mr. Folks*, (Philadelphia): Mr. Chairman, the question presented was the care of young and wayward children. I think the ladies themselves know probably three times the character of the children that the gentlemen do, inasmuch as the experience is all on their side, and from what I learn they are not settled in their own mind, although they think something should be done, and and this was proposed, that we should hold a Children's Aid conference sometime in the near future for the discussion of this one question. It is a very important question, and should receive very careful consideration, much longer and more thorough than could be given in this half an hour. It is proposed that it be held sometime before the next session of the Legislature, at which we can compare our notes, go over our cases, and see what successes and failures we have had, and why the failures occurred. We can see if there are some general traits running through the children which give us all trouble, and we can make provision in the institution spoken of for the treatment of those special things. It seems to me this question must be met and settled by a careful examination of our experience with these children, and the question is altogether too important to be settled in so short a time as half an hour.

*Mr. Sloan*, (Washington County), gave the history of a case in their Home, and showed the necessity of some provision being made for the care of defective and feeble-minded women.

*Mrs. Darragh*, (Allegheny County): The county I represent would like to have some legislation in regard to the fathers of illegitimate children, and would ask this convention that the age of consent be raised from 16 to 18.

*Mr. Smith*, (Pennsylvania Society to Protect Children from Cruelty): In connection with that request I would like to say that an effort was made in the last Legislature to raise the age of



consent from 12 to 18, and the bill was passed raising the age to 16. I do not think it would be wise to make the request at this time. I would like to see it raised to 21.

*Mr. McGonnigle*, (Pittsburgh): With reference to the other request made by Mrs. Darragh, Mr. Lawson, one of our Commissioners has taken up that particular part of the work, and has made some suggestions, but Mr. Hill did not present them this morning. But our Commission has taken up the matter that Mrs. Darragh has spoken of. I have no doubt that we will be able to put something better than the present law in our bill. We have the matter under consideration. The understanding is that our report is to be presented to the Governor about the first of December, and he will hand it to the Legislature with his message about the first of January.

*Mr. Roney*, (Philadelphia): I think some of the ladies would like to speak upon the question of the law governing girls, and when they shall be at liberty to decide for themselves.

*Mrs. Benton*, (Crawford County): We called the attention of the agent, Mr. O'Brien, to the case of a little girl 15 years old who had a child and we were very anxious about the matter, and he assured me that he could not touch the case, as she was 15 years old. It seems to us that a child of that age is very, very young to be left to her own discretion.

*Mr. Gould*, (Erie County): I desire to add a word on two questions that the ladies presented last night. One was the question of what we shall do with our children thrown upon our hands where they have no homes? It is one of those difficult problems that every Ladies' Aid Society has got to meet in every locality where there are no homes. I have given the subject some thought, and I am going to make a suggestion. I do not know as it is the best, but I am satisfied the more I think of this subject, and I think the ladies the more they think of it, come to the same conclusion, that you have got to have some locality where you can place these children until they can be disposed of, take them to a family that is peculiarly fitted by nature to take charge of and handle and influence children, and make a bargain with them to

take them until you find a home for them, at so much a week. Then you have established a home for these children.

There is one other suggestion. Get a regular home as quick as you can. I will tell you how to get the money. Have patience, look around and find some rich man, and tell him that it is not safe for him to die until he has donated that thing, that is the way we do in Erie County. Then say that the only way to distribute charity is to do it while he is living, and then establish your home.

The second subject is one that is more difficult to handle, and that is, what shall we do with our incorrigible feeble-minded? That is a divisible question. They say "the feeble-minded incorrigibles," three-quarters of them. I think it is as fair to say the smart, constitutionally wicked; that is a better title to give them. They are wicked by a long line of inheritance, many of them so long that no one generation can cure them. Now you meet face to face the unsolvable question that the most experienced minds for a hundred years have given consideration, and they were not able to solve it, and that is, where is the dividing line between protecting the innocent and punishing the guilty? We owe just as much of a duty to those who are good as we do to those who are wicked. The only remedy thus far devised is to put them into reformatory institutions; that has been the history of the ages so far. We have hopeless idiots, and hopeless insane, and we have those who are incurable, and those that we hope to cure want to be treated differently. Just so with this class of children; you cannot make one class. There are those that no power on earth can change their nature without a miracle. Their wickedness is inborn. We have all met that class of people. They are not plenty, they are rare, but we have them.

*Mr. Roney, (Philadelphia):* I move that the whole matter be referred to the Committee on Legislation of this Convention, with the request that they present it to the Governor or to the Commission for the purpose of revising the poor laws, and hope by this time next year, instead of coming here and waiting for instructions, they will have something to present agreeable to the ladies of the Convention. Agreed to.

*Mr. McGonnigle* (Pittsburgh): I move that the Chairman be authorized to appoint a committee of five, to be known as the Legislative Committee. Agreed to.

On motion the Convention adjourned to meet at 7:30, at the Court House.

### EVENING SESSION,

Was held in the Court House and called to order at 7:30.

*The President*: The Convention will please be in order. Being very much indisposed to-day, I have asked Mr. Gould of Erie to take the chair for the evening, and he has kindly consented to do so. (Mr. Gould took the chair.)

*Mr. Gould*, (Erie County): Before entering upon the programme for the evening, I am requested to announce the following Committee on Legislation, authorized by the motion of this afternoon, as follows: J. R. Sypher, Philadelphia; George H. Smith, of Philadelphia; L. C. Colborn, of Somerset County; J. R. Spiegel, of Westmoreland County, and J. H. Ewing, of Beaver County.

The next thing on the programme is the subject of the employment of the inmates of almshouses under wages, upon which subject Mr. Hope will read an address.

*Mr. Hope*, (Chester County): Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen of this Convention:—I have been requested to present for your consideration and discussion, "The Employment of Inmates Under Wages."

There are few questions that have such a deep and abiding influence on man; yes, and woman, too, as the question of wages. It reaches down into the pockets of employer and employed, and stirs up feelings of envy and hatred, which sometimes result in bloodshed, and at times threaten the existence of our free government.

Notwithstanding all this train of evil, there is much that is good in money when properly used. The question uppermost in most of men's minds is, how to get money, and how to get it in the least time and in largest quantities. Good, honest, well-earned

and well-paid labor is one of the strongest and most enduring pillars on which rest the permanency of our free institutions. The man who by well-directed effort attains the highest perfection in his trade or profession, will always receive the highest wages and steady work; other things being equal, he is generally one who spends his money and time in beautifying his home, educating his children, and providing for the future. Put in contrast the man who works for wages only, without any higher aspirations, and in nine cases out of ten he will spend his wages for that which will degrade himself, starve his family, and clothe his wife and children with rags. He is the man who will most likely end his life in the county home or poorhouse, and bring his wife to an early grave, and his children to the tender care of the Ladies' Children's Aid Society.

When a person becomes an inmate of a County Home, he is then one of the family, and may be considered a fixture during life, and must be provided for. Very seldom they are worth more than their boarding and clothing; if they were, they would not be in the poor-house.

The question of wages as applied to inmates, is like many of the perplexing questions we as Directors and Superintendents are constantly called upon to decide. Each case must be decided on its own merits; no law or code of rules can be made to meet every case.

While it may appear proper and right to pay our inmates who are able and willing to work, a small compensation for their labor when it is clearly to the benefit of the county to do so, yet to make that the rule, in my opinion, would work harm.

We have heard it said in a vein of pleasantry, of course, that the poor of Chester County live better, and are more comfortably housed than many who pay tax for their support. They call your attention to the large and substantial building with its yard, garden, lawns, shade and flowers. They invite you in, where your sense of comfort is fully satisfied in beholding the large, clean, well-ventilated and home-like apartments, heated by steam, and lighted by electricity. You are asked to view the clean and comfortable beds with snow-white sheets, ever ready to invite the weary to rest. You see the dining-room with its abundance ever ready to cater to the wishes of the hungry. The doctor and nurse



always near to apply remedies for aches, pains and bruises. The gospel is preached nearly every Sabbath, and all are invited to come to the "Fountain of Life." When an inmate dies a Christian minister officiates at his burial.

After we have thus fed, clothed and cared for the inmates of our homes, as I believe nearly all the counties in our State have done, it seems to me our obligations toward them is canceled, and no further wages is needed.

Can any one who views the many institutions for the care and comfort of the poor, as they are at present constituted and conducted in Pennsylvania, feel other than a just pride in being an American citizen, and a native of Pennsylvania?

We of Chester County give those who can nurse the sick or do a certain kind of mechanical work, a small compensation or donation by way of encouraging them to do more and better work. We never admit able-bodied persons to our home. A young child having a mother living is not admitted to our home unless the mother is willing to stay a certain length of time to help in housework and care of child.

A large percentage of inmates in our county homes are there because of strong drink. Many are good mechanics and good workers when sober, but as soon as they receive money they are off on a drunk, and remain so as long as the money lasts, when they return in a sad condition. Money is a curse to such, and should not be given them. The little work they can do will only partially compensate the county for the care and attention they will undoubtedly require in the near future.

We find in all our homes some of more strength and ability to work than others. It is just that these should work to assist in the maintenance of those less fortunate.

We will close this hastily prepared paper by reciting two laws that Christ has given us, that apply to our county homes as well as the family. One is: "If any would not work, neither should they eat." The other, "Bear ye one another's burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ."

I would like, if there is time, to hear what each county is doing in this respect; whether there are any counties that do pay their inmates.

*Mr. Gould*, (Erie County): Having had presented the views of *Mr. Hope*, of Chester County, the subject is now open for any remarks the delegates may wish to make. It is a subject which I think every county has had to consider, and it is well to discuss it.

*Mr. Hunker*, (Allegheny County): I would state for Allegheny County that we employ no inmate labor. We tried it some years ago, and are perfectly satisfied that it is a failure.

*Mr. Snyder*, (Philadelphia): We employ no inmate labor; we have none who are able to do anything. The law says that all able-bodied men shall be committed to the House of Correction.

*Mr. Weaver*, (Lancaster County): We had some inmate labor when I took control, and I have found that it is a failure, and we now have none.

*Mr. Roney*, (Philadelphia): I would say for Blockley that we pay inmate labor, and we cannot get along without it. They will go out and get drunk, and come back again, and we send them to the House of Correction for three months or six months, and they come back again. We have got to employ that class of labor. We pay from two to ten dollars a month, and just as the gentleman from Chester remarked, that money is a bad thing for them to get. I would like to be able to give my experience with the class of people we have there. We have the old, the lame, and the blind and the halt, and I have made a speciality of trying to do away with the traffic in liquor. I have tried, and tried and tried, and I am still trying. They not only get it from the inmates, but from the friends of the inmates when they come to see them. We have talked with their friends, and tried to show them the folly of still continuing that which in very many cases has brought their friends to where they are. But in order to get the work done we receive a certain appropriation as to the Councils seems sufficient to do it. For instance, in our laundry we have got to pay, and that is about the only department in which inmates are paid. Where there is any responsibility placed, it is necessary to give them a few dollars a month. We do it for the purpose of trying to keep them right, and in many cases it does keep them right, from the fact that they know that the moment

they do otherwise, just that moment it will be taken from them. It enables them also to procure many little necessities which they would otherwise be unable to receive. It is a very, very, very difficult problem to solve. I have talked the matter over recently with members of the Board, and tried to see if a system could be adopted whereby we could get that work done, and if necessary to pay outside help, but you have got to cut their coat according to the amount of cloth you have, and the consequence is that in order to induce these people to do what is required of them, we feel at times compelled to pay that class of labor. If there are any of the ladies or gentlemen here to-night who can suggest any way out of paying them, and yet get the work done for three thousand people, have some ten or fifteen people in the laundry, I would only be too well pleased to try to put it into practice; but as I said a moment ago they buy rum, their friends bring it to them. They will throw it over the fence to them; they will place it under the fence in bottles. We give all our inmates and patients, those who are deserving of it, passes, at least once or twice a week, and in many cases when they come home at night—they are required to be in the house at six o'clock—they will be caught in the act of putting a bottle under the fence. They have got it arranged so that all they have to do is to take out the dirt from in front of the fence and slip the bottle under. We have caught them throwing the bottle over the fence. This is not only so with the males but with the females. We have adopted a system of searching the packages of the friends of the inmates and patients. It seems to me this is the most difficult problem we have to solve to-day, whether it is advisable to pay this small sum of money for the purpose of inducing these people to do the work that is required; but it seems to me that under the circumstances, where you have a certain amount of money to do the work with that would pay for about one quarter of the work if outside help were employed, that is the only thing that is left for us. If there is any lady or gentleman here who can suggest a plan to alleviate that difficulty, I would be happy to receive it.

*Mr. Etter*, (Franklin County): The gentleman's experience covers mine exactly, only mine to a smaller extent. As I stated yesterday, we have from 100 to 160 odd inmates at different



seasons of the year, in fact it has been up to 185. The greatest difficulty that I have to contend with is this article. We have tried in a small way to take it away from the inmates. I found it a curse to them. They would slip away to town, they have about a mile-and-a-half to go, and would come back intoxicated, and just as Mr. Roney says, they would bring bottles along, and you could not always detect it. When a man is intoxicated as these men, without any principle at all when he is not intoxicated, becomes so violent by times, that it is impossible to get along. We have quit paying inmates for any purpose, except occasionally—in fact we never did except a few girls that came there—except shoemakers and tailors. I have employed them, and I found that they were a very little better than the inmates. I have a tailor now, a little German, who is an elegant workman, very industrious, and he is an elegant gentleman when he is sober. I give him three dollars a month. But about every two weeks he goes to Chambersburg and goes on a “bust.” I would like to hear from the question; it is one I am interested in, and I would like to hear the different views upon it, to see how to get out of it. We live in a different house from the inmates; the two are not connected, and those who labor on the farm are given their meals there in our own house, not at our own table, but in the house, in a place prepared for them. I think there is some fifteen or twenty in there; they have their regular three meals, the same as anybody else, at morning, dinner and supper. We give them meats fried, roasted and stewed, and find that is about as good a thing as I can do for that class of people.

*Mr. Worst, (Lancaster County):* I would like to ask Mr. Roney whether he has had any trouble with his hired help from the outside, not inmates, in the way of getting drunk. I know I have. They give me more trouble than the inmates. We do not hire any inmates. I would like to have Mr. Roney's experience with those outside people.

*Mr. Roney, (Philadelphia):* We are always having trouble; that is, if we consider it trouble. I make short work of them you may rest assured. A man whom I find is tipping, I will send for him and give him a chance, and if he comes in full there is very little trouble with him. We make him go. We have



made changes, and continue making changes. But I find the most difficulty in the "speakeasies." If we do not give them a little something their friends would provide it for them. There is a man who has been in our asylum a number of times, our drunk ward, or ward of detention. We send them to the House of Correction, but never send a man there who is sick. We take in the most terrible looking wrecks you ever saw, and keep them for the length of time required, but I have the arrangements made so that when they are straightened up, to the House of Correction they go, and they will come back, they will go out, be sent up to the House of Correction, and when they are discharged they will come out and go back to their old practices. They will drink rum, and we will deprive them of their liberty for three months, keep them in the House, and if they go out at the expiration of that time they will come back again drunk the very first chance they have. It is a problem that I would like to have solved. There has been a notorious place termed a "speakeasy" within about a square-and-a-half from us, to which all the old folks have *entre*, and they will go there and lay there, and come back the most terrible looking objects, the most pitiable looking objects you ever saw, and yet when we fix them up, put them to work or send them to the House of Correction, it is only a matter of time till they get back to us, and some of them we are doing a kindness to by keeping them there and paying them, because to leave them out means destruction, and I often feel that whilst I would like to adopt and enforce more stringent measures, yet you cannot resist nature, and if there is any time in a man's life that the condition of a fellow-being will appeal to his humanity, it is at the time after he has been on a debauch for possibly two or three or four weeks, and you would say "keep them out," but I would say "take them in," and I am going to take them in as long as I am there and have them fixed up. The House of Correction is about fourteen miles away, and we have it arranged with the police department. They send the patrol about six o'clock in the morning; the magistrate is at the station-house and gives them a hearing, and commits them for three, six or nine months, and sometimes a year, and after that they come back again.

*Mr. Rolshouse, (Allegheny City Home):* I am very glad that this question has been brought up. I had a paper written to pre-

sent at our Convention at Altoona on this subject, but owing to the rush of business I did not present it. I agree very heartily with Mr. Roney in regard to this matter. Only those who are placed in positions to know these facts can tell what has to be contended with. In our Home for the last five years, and probably a little more, we have paid no inmate labor. It has been our experience that it is not successful. When we have a man or woman who is ready to go out and is worthy of compensation, I have often put my hand in my pocket and aided them, and have at different times asked for some small donations from the board, which they have readily granted, and in this way we have satisfied them to a certain extent. I am entirely opposed to paying directly for their services. I have had old men who you would think could hardly walk to the dining table, and if asked to do a little chore, sweep up a little dirt, or something like that, it would be a great burden to them, and I have found those same men would walk four miles, and I have watched them come back with half a pint of whisky in their bottles. I have gone to the city and seen them walking along the track going to Sharpsburg; that is our nearest place that they can procure it. I have seen them tottering back towards the home, and in that way I would sometimes watch for them and capture what they had. We had one case since I have been connected with the home, a man that the former Superintendent had hired at \$10 a month. He did his work pretty well; he was hired as a watchman. He I think was faithful, seemed so, but the first month he went away and came back under the influence of liquor, and caused a disturbance. He got quite a talking to. He was brought into the office, and as he couldn't speak any English asked me to interpret for him. I told him what the Superintendent said, how he would lose his situation unless he behaved himself or let whisky alone, and he promised faithfully to do better. He started in on his second month, and in the meantime he had become acquainted with a woman in the house, by the time he had his second month he was ready to get married, and he got his second month's pay. The woman had asked for a leave of absence, and we gave it to her, or a pass to the city. When the man got his ten dollars he went to the city, and they were married, and in less than four or six months we had them both back, and finally buried him and kept her for quite a

while and finally she got a situation outside. I might cite another instance, where there was an inmate hired as an attendant in the insane department. But he was there only one month. When he got his first month's pay he not alone got drunk himself, but took two or three others with him and made them drunk, and came home and caused a great deal of trouble, almost created a riot in the place, and of course the next morning he was discharged. I am not in favor of paying inmates for their work, unless it is in the way of tobacco, or if they are going to the city on a visit to give them a little change to pay their incidental expenses. We have quite a number of old gentlemen and ladies who are worthy of the name, because they behave themselves in every respect that makes them worthy to be called such. They are worthy of our kindest treatment and all they get and a little more, and therefore in such cases we give them a little change to put in their pockets. I am entirely opposed to employing inmates under a salary.

*Mr. Cundall*, (Washington County): Our experience has been that it is a failure in our place, for when they get out they come back drunk every time they are paid.

*Dr. Klucie*, (Lancaster County): I would like to ask *Mr. Roney* whether he selects his paid assistants from the inmates, or whether he employs those who are not likely to become objects of charity.

*Mr. Roney*, (Philadelphia): We do not employ those people in the hospital. We have 48 nurses on the female side of the house, in the insane department; we have 100 female trained nurses. We have 48 on the male side of the insane department, who are employed from the outside and are required to pass a civil service examination, but that does not interfere with their propensity to take a drink, and if we find they are taking it we call their attention to it and try to show them the folly of it, and what the consequence will be if they keep on. On Friday one of our best attendants was discharged. He had been notified before, but he would persist in doing it, and the consequence was that he was discharged. I could entertain you the whole evening in giving my experience in managing matters of that character.



*Mr. Gould, (Erie County):* On this subject of the employment of paying inmates for labor I know that some of the counties of the State are prohibited by law from paying them, and perhaps it would be as well to find out how many there are. The only way you can get around that is, that if there is an inmate or any person that you want to employ as an inmate, you can discharge him as an inmate and make terms with him to stay there a certain length of time and work at limited wages; then he is not an inmate of the institution. I find it works very well. For instance, the case of a tailor you want to get; he would come to the house, but you could not take him as an inmate, but you could employ him at very limited wages and agree to furnish him his keeping, and in that way not violate the law.

*Mr. Hershey, (Lancaster County):* I do not see why there should be any pauper labor employed. You might take five paupers, and they would cost as much as one good man, and that man is worth more than 10 of them. Of course there are some in the institution who get there because they cannot get work outside. Those people have got a home, and we care for them, and if they are able to work they should work for us as long as we have the keeping of them, so I do not see as there is any occasion for employing pauper labor.

*Mr. Roney, (Philadelphia):* If the gentleman was connected with an institution where it was necessary to get out 25,000 pieces of laundry work in a week, he would know the reason why inmate labor must be employed. We have a boss tailor we pay five dollars a month, who does the work of a man who would do the work for \$50 a month. We have a boss painter we pay five dollars a month who would be worth fifty or sixty dollars and his keep. We employ a boss weaver, a man in charge of the weaving department, at five dollars a month, who turns out five thousand dollars work in a year; he makes the cloth. We pay a shoemaker five dollars a month who is worth fifty dollars a month; we pay a blacksmith five dollars a month who is worth fifty dollars a month. They couldn't earn their keep outside of the house, and we therefore feel that it is a question of economy also. We have a tinsmith who cannot earn his living outside; we also



have an upholsterer who is the same way. Those are the principal men we hire. The other employes are in the laundry, among the women folks.

*Mr. Hope*, (Chester County): Why is it that these men cannot make a living outside?

*Mr. Roney*, (Philadelphia): Because they cannot control themselves. We have about 25 weavers, 25 shoemakers, all paupers, who do not get anything. We have 8 or 10 painters and 8 or 10 tailors, just as the occasion requires. I say frankly to this Convention that I do not send any labor to the house of correction: when we want it at the almshouse we use it there.

*Mr. Weaver*, (Lancaster County): Have you any punishment to inflict upon your inmates when they refuse to work?

*Mr. Roney*, (Philadelphia): We discharge them from the institution.

*Mr. Weaver*, (Lancaster County): Do not give them a second trial? We put them out and tell them to stay out. When they say they want to come back we take them back again. We do not punish them. We only punish those who make a disturbance. We put them in cells on bread and water, and then they are sent to the house of refuge as soon as they are able to go, in case of drunkenness. It is only the bosses that we pay outside of the laundry.

*Mr. Roney*: That brings up another question; for instance, the tailor, if he were disposed to be ugly, he could cut his cloth up in having it made up, in such a manner that it would be entirely worthless, and it is only those who have had the direct experience that know how those things have to be contended with. There is nobody who would try to obviate those things more than I, but with the class of people we get there it is a pretty difficult problem to deal with. I would say further that we would not pay that class of help if we had a sufficient appropriation to meet the demand. But the Councils seem to think that we ought to get through with the amount appropriated, and they are willing to pay the small amounts, because it is really economy to the city of Philadelphia to employ that labor. It is simply an inducement to get them to work, but the foremen of the various shops we pay five dollars a

month, and I am satisfied that the same men, if they were in a condition to take care of themselves and able to work outside, could get fifty dollars a month for the same work. We can give them a small compensation, and feel justified in taking that course.

*Mr. McKennan* (Washington County): I heartily agree with Mr. Roney that it is good to give them small wages and hold them there. We have an instance of that in our county home. We have men there that are able to do a fair piece of work. We give them what would amount to about five dollars a month to keep them there. Had we not done that we would have been compelled to employ a man at perhaps not less than fifteen or twenty-five dollars a month in order to do the work. I agree with Mr. Roney that it is better. That is the case with our shoemaker also; we give him five dollars a month, I think.

*Mr. Rolshouse*, (Allegheny City Home): I can see very clearly the point Mr. Roney is stating, because he is situated differently from a great many of us. His almshouse proper is almost a little town in itself. It would take quite a number of almshouses throughout the State to make up the number of inmates Mr. Roney has in his institution. For my part, I get more shoemakers than I want. I have at the present time four or five, and they fight sometimes because they cannot all go to work. We do not make new work; all we do is cobbling for the rest. I might say the same thing in regard to the tailors. We have more tailors than we need, and there is one, a boss tailor, and he don't get any money, and if I order him to make a coat or a pair of pants for an inmate, he will go and do it. He takes the measure, puts it down, and then goes to his pattern pile and lays that pattern on the cloth and cuts it out, and don't often make a mistake; and also cuts the pants on the same pattern, but he measures the man and comes out all right.

*Mr. Linderman*, (Pittsburgh City Farm): I have had some experience with inmates under salary. I tried that system when I first took charge of the Pittsburgh Almshouse and Insane Asylum for a very few days, and I found that I had made a wonderful mistake. The first I employed had been an inmate for over a year, and had worked very faithfully and behaved himself. I put him in the inmates' kitchen, and when pay-day came

around he had two weeks' pay coming to him. He received his money and had permission to leave the institution. He went to the village adjoining and spent his whole salary in cheap jewelry, and the first thing I knew he had it circulated around among the feeble-minded people, and I had to dismiss him within twenty-four hours. I tried one other case; a man who was a painter, gave him fifty cents a day for his work. He would get his salary and start off and bring liquor to the institution and scatter it around among the inmates, and create trouble and noise throughout the institution. I came to the conclusion that it was a mistake, and so long as I am a superintendent of an institution I do not want an inmate under salary. Mr. Roney's institution is different from any in the State. It is located in Philadelphia where they get old men and mechanics who are able to do a little work; he can very readily employ them as he does. In Pittsburgh we get a different class of inmates, and in 387 inmates to-day I have but one tailor and one shoemaker. They are all ignorant and intemperate. They will get liquor, no matter how small an amount of money they get. I had to make very strong rules and regulations to keep them from getting liquor into the institution, by appointing trusty inmates as watchmen. By doing that I have to a great measure stopped the bringing of liquor into the institution, and by examining packages brought by friends to the inmates. We have almost broken up the habit of bringing liquor into that institution.

*Mr. Etter, (Franklin County):* This question has been pretty well ventilated, but there is another one that I would like to hear a little talk on, and that is this: We differ in our almshouses, some of us are situated in cities, some in mining districts, etc. Now, when the Board of Charities comes around they will ask us, "Why don't you employ trained nurses?" I would like to know how to get those trained nurses that the State Board of Charities talks about; where you get them, and what they are worth; let us hear what is the price of them. We cannot get them in our neighborhood; they are not to be had. Our people are suffering for want of domestic help through our county, and therefore it is impossible to get women to nurse women in our poor-houses in the southern part of the county, unless we take colored women; we have them at present.



*Mr. Roney, (Philadelphia):* I can only suggest that if they want somebody to organize a school for trained nurses, we can supply them. I know a very excellent lady who is willing to accept the position of head nurse. She can then, under the direction of the board of the county where she would be employed, get young ladies to come there, and she would instruct them, go through the regular course that is required at Blockley, and they can then have nurses of their own under her management. We have nurses from all over the United States and from Canada. We have one from Cuba. We pay the chief \$1,000 a year, and the assistant \$600 a year.

*Mr. Gould, (Erie County):* Will Mr. Roney please state what, if they should send to you, to another place to employ a nurse to go into a small hospital, what the nurse could be got for per month?

*Mr. Roney, (Philadelphia):* About \$35.

*Mr. Gould, (Erie County):* The programme for this evening has been gone through with the exception of certain subjects that might come up for consideration during this Convention, most of which have been discussed in the various subjects that have been introduced, with the exception of this: "In the admission to and discharge from almshouses, what regulations are necessary?" I notice in the remarks of some of the members of this Convention, that in some of the almshouses they take them without being committed or admitted by an order from the Directors of the Poor or Overseers, and are discharged without any formality. They go in and come out at the option of the inmate; others have to go through a formality and to be formally discharged. Perhaps there might be something more said upon that subject.

*Mr. Roney, (Philadelphia):* I speak for Philadelphia and say that the Board of Charities have an office 42 North Seventh street. The Secretary represents the Board. A person applying for admission can go to the office of the Board. The Secretary takes up his case, and if it is for the hospital a doctor examines him, and assigns him to whatever ward he deems necessary. If it is a case for the poor department he is questioned as closely as possible, as to his location, employment, and how long he has been out of employment, and all that sort of thing, and if it is



satisfactory to the Secretary he writes an order and sends it to him. If it is a case of sickness the doctor signs the order in connection with the order of the Secretary, making the assignment, and if it is a case that cannot walk they telephone me and I will send an ambulance to wherever the party may be. Sometimes the friends of the parties call on the Secretary and we send the ambulance to the house. When those people get better, upon the recommendation of the Board, I discharge from the house. If it is from the poor department, if is the male department the Captain of the Out-ward discharges the card and sends it to me, and I discharge from the house. The matron discharges the card of the females and sends it to me, and I discharge from the house. Magistrates commit at times people to the house; when they do that we take them upon the order of the magistrate. I will take them on my own order, and having that authority will accept them, and when they are in a condition to be discharged, we discharge them. We do not keep them for any given time. In case of parole from the insane department the chief resident recommends and I approve. In case of a discharge he discharges the card and I discharge from the house. But we do not wait any time for anyone. Just as soon as a person is in a proper condition to be discharged from the hospital I discharge from the house; and the same way in the poor department, upon the recommendation of the Captain of the out-ward or the Matron, I discharge from the house all the way through, and admit under the same conditions.

*Mr. Dunn, (Erie):* I would like to have the subject of purchasing of supplies for the different almshouses discussed this evening.

*Mr. Hunker, (Allegheny City Home):* I would state for Allegheny City that our method is by advertisement quarterly for supplies for the Home. For shoes and coal, for out-door relief we advertise and receive bids semi-annually and award by contract. All our purchases are made under contract and under the supervision of a purchasing committee.

*Mr. Snyder, (Philadelphia):* I would state for the Oxford and Lower Dublin that they pursue the same plan; groceries, coal and meat to the lowest bidder.

*Mr. Dunn*, ( Erie County ): Do you purchase your dry goods on the bid system?

*Mr. Snyder*, ( Philadelphia ): Sometimes we do. We have a purchasing committee, and they purchase from a wholesale house. We cannot always regulate the amount of dry goods we want. If we want many we go to a large house, and if not our purchasing committee buys them.

*Mr. Roney*, ( Philadelphia ): At Blockley we advertise quarterly and annually goods that fluctuate in price, such as flour, meal, and those articles, sugar, etc., we advertise quarterly; for dry goods quarterly; for coal, shoes, lumber, hardware, and all that sort of material we advertise yearly, but my thought would be that in a small institution I would advise, where it can be properly done, to purchase in open market.

*Mr. Linderman*, ( Pittsburgh City Farm ): The City of Pittsburgh advertises for supplies for the year. Bids are handed in to the Comptroller of the City of Pittsburgh. All bids are referred to the Board of Awards, and all contracts awarded by it. Nothing is purchased except by contract.

*Mr. Myers*, ( Washington County ): In Washington County they are all purchased by our superintendent.

*Mr. Gould*, ( Erie County ): I would state that our newly elected President is present and it is proper that he should be conducted into office before the close of this Convention.

*Mr. Roney*, ( Philadelphia ): I rise at this time to perform a very pleasant duty, and that is to offer a motion that this Association in Convention assembled tender a vote of thanks to our retiring President for the able, affable and distinguished manner in which he has discharged his duties as presiding officer of this Convention. Agreed to.

*The President*: Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention: I appreciate very highly the compliment you have done me, not only in electing me a year ago to the honorable position of President of this Association, but much more highly the compliment which has been paid me in this vote of thanks. I have had some

experience, of course, as a presiding officer, but have labored under great difficulty and embarrassment in presiding over this Convention, for the reason that I was unfamiliar with your faces, and could not recognize and name the different ladies and gentlemen as they took the floor. But I have had a pleasant time, and I thank you for your courteous treatment, your kind forbearance, the pleasant association I have had with you, and the many instructive things I have heard, which I hope to make valuable in the report to be submitted to the coming Legislature. I thank you most heartily for your attention and courtesy and kindness to me. (Applause.)

*Mr. Snyder*, (Philadelphia): Mr. Chairman, I rise at this time to offer a resolution of thanks to the Commissioners of Lancaster for their kindness in presenting to us this room for the meeting of this Convention. We are all aware of the inconvenience we have put them to; the Judges are holding Court in this room, and they are vacating it to give it to us. I would therefore offer a vote of thanks, to be recorded in our minutes and give to them, for their kindness in giving us the use of this room. Agreed to.

*Mr. Snyder*, (Philadelphia): I would now offer a resolution of thanks to the Directors of Lancaster County for their kindness and courteous treatment tendered to the members of this Convention, in taking them to their almshouse and providing a bounteous repast for them. We all know the trouble and expense they have gone to, to furnish the means of conveyance out to their institution, their kindness in taking us through the institution and supplying us with the repast, and the trouble and expense it has been to the Superintendent and Matron who have had all of this in charge. Agreed to.

*Mr. Gould*, (Erie County): Ladies and Gentlemen of this Convention, I have the pleasure of introducing to you Mr. Charles S. Snyder, the newly elected President of the Association.

*Mr. Snyder*, (Philadelphia): Ladies and Gentlemen of the Convention, I am taken somewhat by surprise to be elected as President of this Association. I thank you for the honor you have just conferred upon me. Having been an Overseer of the Poor of the district which I represent for a period of 35 years, I

have had some knowledge and some experience in connection with the poor institutions. I have attended all the sessions of this Convention, with the exception of one, when I was lying sick with a fever. I have taken great interest in the work of this Association and of the charitable institutions of Philadelphia, and we have a good work to perform. We have all classes of people before us, and all conditions of society, and while we have them before us it is a problem for us to solve, what shall we do with them? I have been fortunate in attending these Conventions; they have been useful and instructive to me. I have given the subject much care and thought, and I think that when we get together and consult and discuss these matters before us, that much good is accomplished thereby. I did not come here to-night prepared to say a single word to you, but I thank you for your kindness in electing me to preside at the next Convention. (Applause.)

On motion the Convention adjourned to meet at Reading the Second Tuesday of October, 1891.



## CONSTITUTION.

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ARTICLE 1. This organization shall be known as the "Association of the Directors of the Poor of the State of Pennsylvania."

ART. 2. The members of this organization shall consist of the Directors, Guardians and Overseers of the Poor of the several Poor Districts of the State, and all who have at any time served as such ; the officers of all almshouses in the State ; the members and officers of the Board of Public Charities ; Superintendents and Managers of the several Insane Hospitals and the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-minded Children ; the officers and delegates of all Reformatory, Charitable and Benevolent Institutions or Associations.

ART. 3. The object of the Association shall be that of investigating and considering all questions concerning pauperism and dependency, to devise means for the prevention of the same, to suggest legislation, to establish a personal acquaintance between the Directors of the Poor of the several Districts, and so far as possible have a comparison of their different systems of management.

ART. 4. Its officers shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, one Corresponding Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected annually, and hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and have signed their acceptance of the office.

ART. 5. Their several duties shall be such as usually pertain to those official positions, and they shall be governed by such parliamentary rules as are usually recognized.

ART. 6. The Association shall hold annual meetings at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the members at a regular meeting.

ART. 7. The President, the Vice-Presidents and Secretaries shall constitute a permanent Executive Committee to arrange business and make all the arrangements necessary for each succeeding meeting.

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ART. 8. The Treasurer shall pay out of the funds of the Association, only on the order of the President, countersigned by one of the Secretaries.

ART. 9. The Treasurer shall submit his account at each meeting, which shall be audited by a committee appointed for the purpose.

ART. 10. The expenses necessary for the holding of each meeting shall be assessed on each Poor District represented, which shall be paid to the Treasurer.

ART. 11. Any person interested in the work of the Association will be admitted as an honorary member by a vote of the active majority present.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting by a majority vote of the members present.

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THE  
SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
ASSOCIATION

OF  
Directors of the Floor,

OF THE  
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

HELD AT  
Reading, Pa., October 13-15, 1891.

---

IRA E. BRIGGS, Stenographer.

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PITTSBURGH :  
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1891.



THE SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
Association of Directors of the Poor,  
OF THE  
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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FIRST SESSION.

The seventeenth annual session of the Directors of the Poor, of the State of Pennsylvania, convened in Keystone Hall, in the City of Reading, Pa., Tuesday, October 13th, 1891, at 10 A. M., and was called to order by President Snyder, who said: When the Convention of the Directors of the Poor adjourned at Lancaster in 1890 they adjourned to meet in the City of Reading on the second Tuesday of October, at 10 o'clock. That time having now arrived I call the Convention to order, and as it is fit that all such assemblies open with prayer the Rev. W. J. Kershner, Chaplain of the almshouse, will now open the proceedings with prayer.

PRAYER:

Merciful God, our Heavenly Father, we are thankful to know that thou art our God, that thou hast created us and placed us in this beautiful world, wherein thou doest work out for us our eternal salvation. We thank Thee that thou didst send Thy son, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through whose love and life we learned for the first time what charity was. We have learned to know in what we should be employed, and that thou art a Father who lookest with compassion upon the infirmities of mankind. We thank Thee that thou didst teach us that love, that through it mankind feels greater interest in their brothers, and that we are all assembled as one great family. We are grateful to know that as we are here assembled this



morning that these men are engaged in this glorious work that Christ has set before them ; and may God bless this assembly, and bless each and every one and give them the spirit of Christ, that they may do holy works for the Lord Jesus Christ and that all people may look upon it and say, "truly this is the home of the free ; this is the home where those who are in any distress or suffering of body or mind may find rest."

And now bless every one and do thou forgive our sins and make this meeting redound to Thy glory and honor, and all this we ask from the Father and the Son and the Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be. Amen.

*The President :* I have the pleasure of introducing to the Convention the Honorable Thomas P. Merrett, Mayor of the City of Reading, who will present the kind invitation of the citizens of Reading.

*Mr. Merrett :*

*Mr. President and ladies and gentlemen :—*It affords me great pleasure, as Mayor of Reading, and also in behalf of the citizens of this city, to extend to you and to your friends a hearty welcome to our city, on this the occasion, I think, of your seventeenth annual meeting. Your Association is doing a great good. It is bringing those together who are engaged in the care and protection of the poor and the infirm, and is offering to all those of its members who attend its sessions the opportunities of hearing able papers discussed and read, which will help to enlighten and improve you in your methods. Your cause is a most worthy one, and I trust that you will not only in your deliberations consider your duties and responsibilities, as the Directors of the Poor and Superintendents of the asylums of the dependent classes, but that you will use every means and influence in your power to improve the condition of those classes, and that men generally may act with you in trying to lessen the miseries of their less fortunate fellow men.

I hope that your stay may be pleasant among us. Our local authorities will see that you are taken over the Gravity road to the top of Mt. Penn, where you will have an opportunity of witnessing the beautiful scenery and will have a grand view of the city of Reading. In looking from the mountain top across the

river and about three miles away you will notice the buildings of the Poor House farm, situated in the center of a farm of about 500 acres, which, I think, you will find in very good order and well managed. I trust that your stay may be beneficial to you all, and that you may carry away pleasant recollections of your stay among us. I bid you again a kind welcome.

Col. E. P. Gould, of Erie Pa., replied to the Mayor's address of welcome, as follows:

*Col. Gould: To the Mayor of the City of Reading, and through him to the good people of this city:—*On behalf of our Association I will say that, coming into your city and receiving this cordial welcome reminds me of the fact that in ancient times, we are told, that when nations and tribes waged war against each other for conquest, rapine and spoils that it was the custom when the victorious army entered the conquered territory and approached the towns of the vanquished that the people came out in their holiday dress and gave them a royal welcome, hoping thereby it is said to appease the enmity of the victors and prevent their sacking the town and carrying off as captives their beautiful women. It may be that this cordial greeting is actuated by the same motive. But still I hardly think that is the case, for I am aware that some ten years ago there was an association formed in the city of Reading whose object it was to offer a premium for matrimony, and so broad were their ideas on that subject that they did not limit the range of those to be benefited but extended it from 12 to 60 years. Now I have always thought that that association was a libel on this town, as this city is known throughout the State as a place where the men are intelligent and thrifty and where the ladies are widely known for their culture and beauty, and when these conditions exist it needs nothing to encourage matrimony.

But I wish to say that it is a pleasure to come to this historic City of Reading. We recollect that it was founded by some stalwart old Germans who came to this country bringing their testaments and their parsons with them, and that they laid the foundations of a civilization here such as we see to-day. From that foundation and that stock we derive the Heisters, the Muhlenbergs and the Clymers, and the others who have made the valley of the Schuylkill celebrated.

It is a pleasure to come to this historic valley. We remember, too, that the enterprising people of this city, jointly with those of Philadelphia, conceived, projected and built this great Reading railroad, that became the highway of the nation in the onward tide of empire towards the west; and we recognize that in all that has been done here it is but the perfecting and going on, from the original plan to what we see now.

I want to say that the delegates to this Convention do not come here from motives of personal advantage or gain, but that they come at great personal sacrifice. They come to devise better means for the public good, and we thank you for the cordial greeting extended to us and we hope to carry away many pleasant recollections of your people and of this city.

*President Snyder* :—When I look around and see so many new faces I wonder what has become of the many that years ago I saw in these Conventions. Many have disappeared and others have replaced them, and there are very few now before me that were members when I became a member of the Association, sixteen years ago. We are all met again for the good work, a work that extends not only to us but to all the families of this Commonwealth. We may be in good circumstances to-day, and to-morrow all of our possessions may be swept away and we may have to depend on the cold charities of the world for support. It is not a crime to become poor, but it is unfortunate. For many years I have been connected with our almshouse, and I have considered it a pleasure and a study to look after the interests of that institution. We come here to consult together for the benefit of the whole Commonwealth. I hope you will all enjoy yourselves and that we will have a good meeting.

Mr. McGonnigle presented the following programme of the order of business as prepared, which was adopted :

Tuesday, October 13th, 1891, 10 A. M.—Called to order by President Snyder, of Philadelphia. Address of welcome and response, enrollment of delegates and appointment of committees. 12 M. Adjourn to

2 P. M. Short reports will be received from the various poor districts represented. These reports should state ; 1st, the number of persons supported during the year in the almshouses ; 2d, number of persons receiving out-door re-

lief; 3d, total number of almshouse and out-door relief expenditures. Mr. John R. Jones, of Scranton will read a paper on "Poor Houses and Poor Farms." To be followed by discussion. 6 P. M. Adjourn to

8 P. M. Dr. I. N. Kerlin, Superintendent of the Pennsylvania Training School for the Feeble Minded, will deliver an address on the "Care of the Feeble Minded." The work of "The Children's Aid Society" will be presented and discussed.

Wednesday, October 14th, 1891, 9 A. M.—Reports of committees and other business. The work of "The Poor Law Commission" will be presented by E. P. Gould, of Erie. "The different systems of caring for the poor in this State" will be presented by D. S. Brumbaugh, of Blair County. Adjourn to

2 P. M. Mr. Cadwallader Biddle, Secretary of the Board of Public Charities, will explain the operation of the "Immigration Law" as amended. The care of the "chronic insane" will be presented by Dr. C. C. Wiley, of Pittsburgh, and discussed. To be followed by such other business as may be presented. 6 P. M. Adjourn to

8 P. M. Miss Mary E. Garrett, will deliver an address on the "Training in speech of Deaf Children." At the last session of the Legislature an appropriation was made to erect a home for this class of dependents.

Thursday, October 15th, 1891, 9 A. M.—Such business as may be presented will be taken up and acted upon.

This programme is subject to such change and additions as may be found desirable to suit the convenience and the arrangements made by the Berks County authorities for the entertainment of the members.

The following topics have been suggested for discussion as may be found desirable and convenient during the session:

"Charity Organization—How can we best utilize it?"

"Medical Out-door Relief."

"Best method of Conducting Almshouses."

"How can we secure the assistance and co-operation of all the Directors of the Poor in the State?"

"The Duties and Responsibilities of the Directors of the Poor and Superintendents of Almshouses to the Dependent Classes."

*The President:*—The Secretary will now call the role of districts and the delegates will please come forward and present their names in writing.

The following delegates were reported:

ADAMS COUNTY—*Almshouse*—John Deardorf, James B. Myers, John A. Oiler, John Eicholtz, John Toot, Mrs. Dr. Swartz, Elias Firrel, Peter C. Stock.



ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny County Home*—W. H. Guy, Frank Patterson, J. T. Richey, W. J. Glenn, J. F. Robb,

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Pittsburgh Department of Charities*—Geo. Linderman, Geo. Hoffman, Mrs. Geo. Linderman, Miss C. A. Collins.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny City Department of Charities*—Wm. P. Hunker, R. D. McGonnigle.

BEAVER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Isaac Minor, J. H. Ewing and wife.

BEDFORD COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Abel Johnson, Geo. H. Ickes, Geo. Kerr, Thos. Armstrong, Clerk; J. S. Barefoot, Steward.

BERKS COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Abraham Schlegel, Samuel Z. Deck, Fred. Roland, Joseph D. Hornberger, Samuel M. Deck, A. B. Rieser, Milton H. Delong, Dr. M. A. Roads and A. A. Stamm, Rev. W. J. Kershner, Mrs. Abraham Schlegel, Mrs. S. Z. Deck, Mrs. Roland, Mrs. Jos. Hornberger.

BLAIR COUNTY—*Almshouse*—D. S. Brumbaugh, Philip Young, Mrs. Philip Young, Children's Aid Society of Beaver Co., Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Bruner, Mrs. A. J. McKee, Mrs. D. S. Brumbaugh, John A. Crawford, Mrs Crawford.

CARBON COUNTY—*Middle Coal Field Poor District*—G. W. Miller, A. S. Monroe, A. M. Neumuller, G. T. Wells, Jas. McCready, P. H. Latham.

CHESTER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Samuel Wickersham, John S. Hope, C. B. Swisher.

CRAWFORD COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Edgar Patch, G. W. Cutshall.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY—*Almshouse*—James Coyle, Michael Seavers, John H. Rhoads, Thos. N. Smith, P. M. Boyer, W. A. Kramer.

ERIE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—H. Duhn, Wm. Hopkins, E. P. Gould.

FAYETTE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—John R. Carothers, Chas. W. Keefer, Wm. Bush, John D. Carr, Steward.

FRANKLIN COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Thos. E. Fuller, Wm. Ferguson, Geo. W. Immell, A. H. Etter, Mrs. Thos. E. Fuller, Mary C. Etter, Dr. Jno. P. Seibert.

HUNTINGTON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—E. O. Heck, President; W. H. Henderson, Simson Wright.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Blakely Poor House*—James J. Lynch, John R. Jones.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Scranton Poor District Farm*—Daniel Williams, Geo. W. Beemer, Hon. Lewis Pughe, Mrs. Francis Swan, John Gibbens, Fred Berge.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Ransom Poor House*—Ira C. Atherton, Sevrus Seihel, Paul Bohan.

LANCASTER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—J. S. Strine, E. H. Hershey, D. C. Kready, B. F. Weaver, H. W. Kraybill, Wm. Good, J. W. Brown, Geo. E. Worst.

LEBANON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Wm. Caruthers, S. C. Heffelfinger, J. A. H. Boger, Dr. Geo. L. Weiss.

LEHIGH COUNTY—*Almshouse*—W. S. Guth, S. R. Engelman, Wm. Deibert, Directors; S. A. J. Kern, Clerk.

LUZERNE COUNTY—*Central Poor District*—O. B. MacKnight, Eugene Alexander, A. J. Bellis, Ira Davenport, Max Long.

MERCER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—T. A. Robinson, J. W. Hawthorn, John W. Byers.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Henderson Supplee, Charles A. Bean, David H. Ross.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Jeremiah Bauer, Samuel Kessler, Herman Schmidt, Dr. R. H. Beck.

NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—*Sunbury Poor House*—Peter Bowen, Jacob Renn.

PERRY COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Jacob W. Wagner, John Swartz, John Freeland.

PHILADELPHIA—*Blockley Almshouse*—Charles Lawrence, Superintendent; Geo. Millikin, Children's Visitor.

PHILADELPHIA—*Germantown Poor House*—John J. Crout, J. G. Schuler, Alex. P. Keyser F. W. List, Henry Lant, Mrs. J. G. Schuler, Mrs. Alex. P. Keyser.

PHILADELPHIA—*Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor House*—Chas. S. Snyder, Geo. M. Shallcross, Jacob Titus, Mrs. Chas. S. Snyder, Mrs. G. M. Shallcross, Mrs. Jacob Titus.

SCHUYLKILL COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Wm. Leininger, Thos. J. Tracey, H. H. McGinnis, Watson F. Shepherd, Dr. Chas. D. Orr, Jno. J. O'Conner.

SOMERSET COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Alexander Hunter, Frederick Weller, John C. Miller, L. C. Colborn.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY—*Auburn and Rush Poor House*—Bela Griffin, Director.

WARREN COUNTY—*Rouse Hospital*—E. L. Morris, Superintendent.

WASHINGTON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—J. C. Sloan, D. W. Myers, W. B. McKennan, John Wilson, E. G. Cundall, Mrs. L. A. Wilson, Rev. R. C. Wolf, J. W. Ross, Mrs. E. H. Ross.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY—*Almshouse*—W. D. Reamer.

YORK COUNTY—*Almshouse*—James S. Bayley, Felix Bentzel, Reuben Minnich, Geo. Dawn, Dr. Z. C. Myers.

HOUSE OF REFUGE OF PHILADELPHIA—Lewis L. Haupt.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA—Mrs. A. Alston, Mrs. W. P. Price.

JEFFERSON COUNTY CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—Miss Maree Bishop.

TRAINING IN SPECIAL OF DEAF CHILDREN—Miss Mary E. Garrett, Chester, Pa.

ADAMS COUNTY CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—Mrs. Joel Swartz.

CHESTER COUNTY CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—Mrs. Lydia B. Walton, Sarah Ann Wilkinson, Sarah Ann Conard, Lydia C. Conard.

NORTHERN HOME FOR FRIENDLESS CHILDREN OF PHILADELPHIA—Miss M. M. Walk.

INDIANA COUNTY CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—Mrs. Sue Willard.

VENANGO COUNTY CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—Mrs. J. J. Fisher, Mrs. Belle K. Richards.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF PHILADELPHIA—Homer Folks.

AGENT OF THE IMMIGRATION COMMISSION—R. D. Layton.

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA—Cadwallader Biddle.

*Mr. McGonnigle*:—I feel there is some explanation due from me in regard to the program. It is difficult to make up a program for such a meeting every year. To get new topics and to get the people to take them up and present them is a difficult matter. At home I am very busy and have not been able to give the matter of this program as much attention as it should have had. Several years ago we had blank forms of reports, for the use of the various districts, but to have substantially this same information asked for year after year seemed to be needless, although one gentleman wrote that it was the very thing to do and another wrote me that it was the thing not to do. It seems to me there is no one specially interested in having a report of how many bushels of corn or oats we raise on the poor farms or the number of cattle, etc., and so I thought it best to simply ask for a report of the number of people supported in the almshouses, the number receiving out-door relief, and the total amount of almshouse and out-door relief expenses, so that the reports would be in something of a uniform order; and that is why the reports from the counties will not be asked for in the usual blank form, and will be made out as asked for.

With reference to the paper by Dr. Kerlin, his work is so closely identified with the work of this Association that I thought the way was clear for him to make a short address on the work of their institution.



With reference to the paper on "the work of the Poor Law Commission," it was thought a proper subject to have their work discussed. In fact the subject was requested by several of our members to whom I had written for suggestions.

"The care of the chronic insane" was thought another matter well worth considering, for the reason that the State has provided for the building of a hospital exclusively for this class of dependents; and to be in "touch" with the Commission who have this work in hand it is proper for us to take that matter up now.

As to the address of Miss Mary E. Garrett, the State has just made an appropriation for the erection of an institution of that kind for the care of this class of dependents. Children who will be proper subjects for this school are continually falling into our hands as dependent; and we should keep ourselves fully advised of the provisions the State has made for us in this direction. I make this explanation because I don't feel entirely satisfied with the program this year, and believe it would be well to have a committee appointed on "program" for next year. I don't, because I haven't been able to give it the time it requires, and if you will appoint a committee I think you will get better results than for one person alone; and I move that there be a committee of three, appointed for that purpose. The motion of Mr. McGonnigle is agreed to.

John R. Jones, of Blakely Poor District, Lackawanna County, offered the following resolution and moved its adoption:

*Resolved*, that the Directors of the Poor, of the State of Pennsylvania, in Convention assembled, hereby express their sorrow in the death of J. Nevin Hill, Esq., of Sunbury. That his valuable and painstaking services as a member of the Commission, appointed by Governor Beaver, to revise and codify the Poor Laws of the Commonwealth, are fully appreciated, and it was with great sorrow that we learned of his sudden death. That the legal profession, in the death of Mr. Hill, has lost a bright and shining light.

*Mr. McGonnigle*:—I first became acquainted with Mr. Hill at the organization of the Poor Law Commission, and during the work of the Commission was very intimately associated with him. Mr. Hill as an attorney had made a study of the Poor Law for

years and was remarkably well equipped for service as a member of the Commission, and he naturally became the leader of the Commission ; in fact the larger part of the entire work was done by him. He was an untiring worker, and never seemed to think his task completed. This close application to the many details of the work of the Commission as well as to the private matters, resulted in the breaking down of his system and in his death, September, 1891. Mr. Hill was an elegant gentleman, a fine scholar, and a delightful companion, and in his death I feel I have lost a friend, the community a good citizen and one who gave a great deal of his time and means to devise ways for better caring for the dependent classes. His good works will surely follow him.

*Mr. Brumbaugh* :—It was my pleasure to meet Mr. Hill on several occasions, and I can heartily endorse what Mr. McGonnigle has said. He had gone to a great deal of care and research in this matter of Poor Law. His knowledge upon that subject was very great indeed, and we have lost, especially as to this branch of the work, a great man. Personally he has done a great deal for us, and I heartily endorse the resolution.

*Mr. Bowen* (of Sunbury) :—I do not suppose that anyone here, aside from Mr. McGonnigle, was perhaps better acquainted with Mr. Hill than I was. I spent a number of evenings with him while he was preparing this material for the Poor Laws, and I don't think anyone worked harder for the success of that than Mr. Hill. He was conscientious in his work, did it well and thoroughly, and I can endorse every word that has been said. The motion of Mr. Jones is agreed to.

John R. Jones, of Blakely Poor District, Lackawanna County, offered the following resolution and moved its adoption :

*Resolved*, that the Directors of the Poor, of the State of Pennsylvania, in Convention assembled, hereby express their sorrow in the death of Doctor S. S. Schultz, late Superintendent of the State Hospital for the Insane, at Danville. That Doctor Schultz was a physician of fine ability and great skill, and his long experience in caring for the insane will make the vacancy caused by his death difficult to fill. His presence and wise counsel at the annual meetings of this Association, will be sadly missed.

*Mr. Brumbaugh*:—My long acquaintance with Dr. Schultz will not allow me to remain silent now. Immediately after the law was passed requiring counties to place their insane in State institutions we found that the district we represented was very much overcrowded. So the Board requested me to go to Danville and see Dr. Schultz. At that time he was engaged in enlarging the hospital buildings there and he said at that time they were somewhat crowded, but that they would take our insane. From that time our intercourse has been most pleasant. His large learning and his long experience in that branch of the work made him very efficient. He was so kind and agreeable and so affable and so generous that it was a pleasure to go there and meet him. The resolution is agreed to.

*Mr. Colborn* (of Somerset):—I now move that out of respect for these two deceased members that this Convention do now adjourn.

*Mr. Rieser* (of Berks Co.):—Before we adjourn, I rise to apologize for myself and some of the Directors of the poor, for some misunderstanding in regard to this meeting. I can assure you that you are all heartily welcome here, and I can further assure you that the Directors of the poor of this county will do all in their power to make you feel at home. It was only in the last two weeks that I was called upon to take up this matter. and we were somewhat disappointed in the arrangements, but had to make the best of it that we could. I understand that some of the members present had written to some of our Directors and received no response; but the present Directors assure me that they received no letters inquiring about the arrangements or what should be done here. But we will do the best that we can for you, and I hope that the Convention will not for a moment think that the Directors of the poor, or the citizens of Reading will not extend to them the most hearty welcome. The hand and the door latch of every citizen is out for you. Our best hotels have ample accommodations to care for you well.

(Mr. Rieser made a statement as to the probable number that might be accommodated at the various hotels, showing ample provision for all who were in attendance.)

*Mr. Rieser:* We desire to have you visit the almshouse and go over the Mt. Penn Gravity road; and you can fix the times for these trips that will be most convenient to you.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* I move that the invitations be accepted with thanks. And I think that the fixing of the times should be left until this afternoon.

The motion is agreed to.

The motion of Mr. Colborn, of Somerset, to adjourn out of respect is agreed to and the Convention adjourns until 2 o'clock, P. M.

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### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention was called to order by the President, and opened with prayer

*By Rev. Mr. Kershner:*—We rejoice, Heavenly Father that we have been called out of darkness into light, and that we have partaken of Thy spirit, which is a spirit of love, and that Thou didst condescend to reveal Thy love among the children of men. Help us to realize more and more thy great love, that we may become more and more like Thy son. We thank Thee that Thou hast revealed thyself to the heart of man, and that Thy spirit is manifested in the institutions of charity that have been erected and placed throughout our State, for the alleviation of suffering in this life. We thank Thee, O God, that Thou didst come into this world for those who are in need of Thee. We are sons and daughters of the living God our Father in Heaven, and we would ask Thee to bless this assemblage. Bless the different homes represented here, and may we each day try to devise some new way and new idea to raise man from his fallen condition into a higher and better condition. And do Thou inspire all those who act and speak, with Thy Holy Spirit, that they may further the cause of Christ in this world, and that we may all learn to love one God and Saviour. Amen.

*President Snyder:* We will now listen to the reports from the various poor districts, as per the program.



The various reports, which follow, were at this time submitted, and during their submission the following remarks were made :

#### ADAMS COUNTY.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen :*

We take pride in reporting that the almshouse has been making advances since last you heard from us.

The closing of the fiscal year showed that the expenditures for all poor purposes were about \$1,500 less than the preceeding year, a fact that is due to the careful economy that has been practiced by the Directors of the Poor.

April 1st, 1891, the steward of last year retiring, Mr. Elias Fissel was selected as the new steward ; he has proved an efficient manager, and is with us at this meeting.

One of the first things done by the new steward was to have fitted up a chapel, with a new organ purchased by subscription. The institution had been in need of a better place than that which had been used and the present chapel fills a long needed want.

We had always suffered from the want of a pest house, but at the urgent pressure of the Board, the County Commissioners have erected a neat four room building at a proper distance from the other buildings which answers all purposes.

The Directors have changed the old out-door system of giving money, which method became very unsatisfactory because it was not known what use was made of the money. In its place they have established a system giving orders for necessities ; these orders are in blank so that the recipient can use them at any store to the best advantage. They must use them within sixty or ninety days, and they are not allowed to use them for luxuries. The new plan has met with the hearty approval of the tax payers of the county.

The Ladies' Aid Society is now well organized in the county and brings to the meeting as the first representative that the county has ever had at these annual meetings, Mrs. Dr. Swartz, of Gettysburg. The society has made themselves valuable to the Board. At present there are sixty-four inmates in our almshouse, a slight increase. There are seventeen insane inmates in our model county asylum ; twenty-nine in our male department and eighteen in our female department.

Last, we have given shelter to 1,722 vagrants or tramps during the last year, to each of whom we have given two meals, supper and breakfast.

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 ALLEGHENY CITY HOME.

Number of inmates in the Home, sane and insane, January 1st, 1890.....		254
Admitted during the year.....	154	
Children born.....	6	160
Total.....		414
Died.....	29	
Discharged.....	124	153
Remaining December 31st, 1890.....		261

## TRAMPS ASSISTED.

Males and Females.....	102
Meals furnished.....	143
Lodgings provided.....	34

## INSANE.

In the Asylum Jan. 1st, 1890.....	100
Admitted.....	33
Total.....	133
Discharged and Died.....	27
Remaining December 31st, 1890.....	106
Average monthly number of inmates.....	254
Average daily number of inmates.....	252
Total number of days maintained.....	92,127

Out-door relief was furnished to 352 white males; 491 white females; 33 colored males and 55 colored females, a total of 931 persons assisted.

Current expenses.....	\$	31,479 25
Out-door relief and expenses.....		10,555 65
New laundry, building and equipments.....		3,667 09
Loan to poor fund No. 2.....		4,500 00
Total expenditures.....	\$	50,201 99

## MAINTENANCE ACCOUNT.

To expenditures.....	\$	27,594 47
Supplies on hand, Jan. 1, 1890.....		6,246 48
	\$	33,840 95
Supplies on hand Dec. 31st, 1890....	\$ 7,279 96	
Receipts for produce and boarding...	2,278 17	9,558 13
Net cost.....		24,282 82
Value of products of farm.....		6,660 00
Average yearly cost <i>per capita</i> .....		95 60
Average weekly cost <i>per capita</i> .....		1 84
Population of District.....		104,967
Valuation of District.....	\$	51,956,800
Poor Tax.....		1 Mill.

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY.—Pittsburgh City Farm.

The Department of Charities, of Pittsburgh, is controlled by the Chief, R. C. Elliot, Esq., in whom is vested all authority with regard to its entire management; he employs all officers and employes connected with the department, who retain their respective positions so long as they are unremitting in the faithful discharge of their duties, and conform strictly to the rules laid down for their guidance.

The City Farm is managed (under the chief,) by George Linderman, who is Superintendent of the Home and Insane Asylum, he holding all officers in the departments under his charge strictly accountable for the faithful and efficient discharge of their duties. In the city office there are five officers, viz: one examiner, two clerks, one messenger and one assistant messenger.

At the City Farm Home and Insane Asylum, there are thirty-three officers employed, viz: superintendent, physician, clerk, chaplain, hospital steward, engineer and assistant engineer, baker, night watchman, farmer and assistant farmer, two matrons, one hospital nurse, one children's nurse, one officer's cook, one inmates' cook, one waiter, seven male and seven female attendants in Insane Asylum, and one carpenter for general work round the institution.

The following schedule shows the gradual decrease in the number of inmates admitted to the Pittsburgh City Farm Home, annually from February 1st, 1888 till January 31st, 1891.

1887. February....334	1889. February....280
“ March.....347	“ March.....271
“ April.....310	“ April.....261
“ May.....288	“ May.....241
“ June.....293	“ June.....244
“ July.....290	“ July.....249
“ August.....281	“ August.....252
“ September...293	“ September...248
“ October.....273	“ October.....240
“ November...291	“ November...247
“ December...299	“ December...259
1888. January....306--3,605	1890. January....271--3,063
1888. February....295	1890. February....269
“ March.....287	“ March.....262
“ April.....255	“ April.....257
“ May.....250	“ May.....258
“ June.....251	“ June.....245
“ July.....254	“ July.....244
“ August.....259	“ August.....241
“ September...267	“ September...234
“ October.....273	“ October.....242
“ November...273	“ November...247
“ December...277	“ December...272
1889. January....284--3,225	1891. January....282--3,053
1891. February....274	Decrease from Feb. 1, 1888,
“ March.....272	till January 31, 1889....380
“ April.....264	Decrease from Feb. 1, 1889,
“ May.....246	till January 31, 1890....162
“ June.....255	Decrease from Feb. 1, 1890,
“ July.....238	till January 31, 1891....10
“ August.....234	Estimated decrease from Feb.
“ September...233--2,016	1, 1891, till Jan. 1, 1892...365
	917



The foregoing schedule of Home inmates up to January 31st, 1891, shows a decrease of  $15\frac{1}{3}$  per cent and estimating the balance of the present year to progress in the same ratio would show a decrease of  $25\frac{1}{6}$  per cent in the last four years.

Of the Home inmates during the last four years, there has been in hospital  $25\frac{1}{3}$  per cent of the total number.

Cost of maintaining Insane Asylum for the year 1890...\$19,075 99

Cost of maintaining the Home for the year 1890..... 32,932 29

Total cost for maintaining the Home and Insane } \$52,008 28  
Asylum.....

Total number of days in which inmates were supported at Pittsburgh City Farm Home, in the year 1890, together with the average weekly number, and average cost per week of each inmate.

Months.	No. at End of each Month.	No. of Days in Month .	Number of Days Supported During the Month.	Remarks.
February.....	269	28	7,552	Average No. of days inmates supported weekly in the Home .... 1,786.
March.....	262	31	8,122	
April.....	257	30	7,710	
May.....	258	31	7,998	
June.....	245	30	7,350	Average cost per Week of each inmate.....\$1.60 $\frac{3}{4}$
July.....	244	31	7,564	
August.....	241	31	7,471	
September....	234	30	7,020	
October.....	242	31	7,502	Average cost per week for each Patient in the Insane Asylum...\$2.17 $\frac{1}{16}$
November....	247	30	7,410	
Decembers....	272	31	8,432	
January, 1891	282	31	8,742	
Total number of days supported } during the year.....			92,873	

The following schedule shows the gradual decrease in the number of inmates admitted to the Pittsburgh City Farm Insane Asylum, annually, from February 1st, 1888 till January 31st, 1891.

	1887.		1888.		1889.		1890.		1891.	
	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.
February.....	81	79	97	92	71	81	71	78	69	77
March.....	82	79	94	96	70	78	71	79	69	76
April.....	86	84	91	96	70	78	72	81	68	79
May.....	85	84	87	92	71	79	71	81	68	80
June.....	87	84	84	93	71	79	69	80	67	82
July.....	89	81	75	91	71	78	66	80	67	80
August.....	85	85	71	86	70	78	67	85	68	79
September.....	84	88	71	84	71	79	68	85	67	81
October.....	86	89	72	84	71	79	68	82		
November.....	87	91	73	83	71	79	69	82		
December.....	92	91	71	84	71	80	68	78		
January, 1888..	94	91	71	82	71	79	67	77		
	1038	1026	957	1064	849	948	827	968		

The above schedule shows a decrease of  $13\frac{1}{30}$  per cent up to January 31st, 1891, and estimating the balance of the present year to progress in the same ratio would show a decrease of  $24\frac{1}{2}$  per cent during the last four years.

In addition to the above number there are 116 patients at the Insane Asylum, at Dixmont, who are supported there by the Department of Charities of Pittsburgh.

The following schedule shows the number of male and female patients in the Hospitals from February 1st, 1887, till September 30th, 1891.

	1887.		1888.		1889.		1890.		1891.	
	Males.	Fe- males	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.	Males.	Fe- males.
February.....	43	28	43	39	40	27	47	29	41	33
March.....	42	31	42	26	40	25	48	40	43	36
April.....	38	31	38	28	35	26	47	36	39	32
May.....	37	35	42	30	40	24	43	35	45	34
June.....	41	30	38	28	40	26	42	32	48	38
July.....	44	29	38	28	41	33	42	38	44	31
August.....	39	27	41	31	37	38	38	30	38	28
September.....	45	31	44	31	36	31	37	25	43	30
October.....	44	23	45	32	43	30	38	27		
November.....	46	27	43	28	37	32	45	28		
December.....	46	29	40	28	48	30	46	30		
January.....	43	30	45	28	46	32	43	38		
	508	351	499	357	483	354	516	388	341	262

The following is the Bill of Fare furnished at the inmate's table at the Pittsburgh City Farm, viz:

Breakfast.—Coffee, tea, bread, molasses, and meat for working men, also dried apples, dried peaches and prunes, alternately every week.

Dinner.—Potatoes, meat, soup, bread, fish on Fridays, and vegetables in season.

Supper.—Coffee, tea, bread, molasses, mush and milk on Fridays, meat for working men, fruit in season, also crackers and cheese on Sundays, and stewed tomatoes frequently in season.

The Hospital patients' diet is furnished strictly in accordance with the Resident Physician's orders.

The following crops, &c., have been produced on the Pittsburgh City Farm, in 1891, viz :

Milk,	Parsley,	Plums,
Eggs,	Onions,	Cabbage,
Apples,	Beets,	Turnips,
Pears,	String Beans,	Parsnips,
Quinces,	Lima “	Squash,
Peaches,	Carrots,	Tomatoes,
Grapes,	Cucumber,	Sweet Corn,
Potatoes,	Oats,	Indian “
Pumpkins,	Rhubard,	Peas,
Radishes,	Lettuce,	Spinach,
Hay,	Cherries,	Gooseberries,
Celery,	Musk Melons,	Asparagus,
Peppers,	Veal,	Chickens,
Pork,	Butter,	
Ducks,	Beef,	

Value of farm products of 1890, as returned in itemized report.....\$ 8,236 71

The percentage of pauperism of the City of Pittsburgh, with a population of 243,000, is as follows, viz :

The number of insane classified as paupers.....	264
Number of paupers in City Farm Home. ....	233
Total.....	<u>497</u>

Which will be found on strict scrutiny to yield a percentage of  $\frac{1}{5}$  of one per cent of the entire population.

The following is a statement of out-door relief furnished by the Pittsburgh District for the last four years : 1887, \$19,700.95 ; 1888, \$13,623.95 ; 1889, \$12,347.12 ; 1890, \$13,358.59 ; making an average decrease for the last three years of \$6,591.06.

Of the children under charge of this district, six were adopted by order of Court, two were taken by Concordia Orphan's Home, being 16 years of age ; four were given away by their mothers while at City Farm, four children are now out on trial, nineteen applications were received for children and of this number one was refused.

There has been in the last year seventeen cases of assisted pauper immigrants come to the notice of this department ; of this number seven were sent back to the various countries from which they came.



### BEAVER COUNTY HOME.

Beaver County Home is situated on the south bank of the Ohio river, about 3 miles from Beaver, the county seat. It is a very fine location, but the buildings are not as well adapted as they might be, but are in very good repair. It was built to accommodate 100, and for the last year the number of inmates have ranged from ninety to ninety-nine, so it is about full, an average increase of about ten during the year. Along with the natural increase in population there are large numbers of Italians and Hungarians working on streets and railways nearly all of whom are destitute and when they get sick are brought to the Home, thereby making the increase more during the year than usual. The number of inmates September 30th, 1891, was ninety-seven.

The farm consists of 130 acres. We can usually raise enough of everything except wheat to supply the Home, but when there is a shortage in anything we supply from other sources instead of stinting the paupers. We aim always to give them plenty of good substantial food, and also to make their condition as homelike as we possibly can.

We have five children in the Home of the Friendless, Allegheny City, two at Elwyn. Had under our care fifty-six insane during the year, at Dixmont. The Poor Board consists of three Directors who meet once a month at the Home.

We do not have very many tramps, the Ohio river being between the nearest railroad and the Home makes it inconvenient for them to get to it.

Patients are admitted to the Home only on regularly formulated commitments signed by two Justice of Peace.

Seventeen out-side physicians, one Home.

Salaries ranging from \$15.00 to \$100.00.

### BEDFORD COUNTY.

Representatives :—Directors Abel Johnson, George H. Ickes, George Keer. Attorney and Clerk, Thomas Armstrong ; Steward, J. S. Barefoot. Number supported during year, 76 ; out-door relief, 54. Total expenditures of 1890, \$9,609.45.

### BERKS COUNTY POORHOUSE.

Our County Home consists of two large substantial brick buildings with furnished accommodation for over 300 poor inmates. These

buildings are located on a large farm of 514 acres of land, about three miles from the City of Reading.

In addition to the buildings above mentioned there are two unused brick buildings, formerly used by the paupers, and many smaller buildings, for bake house, boiler house, &c.

During the year ending September 30, 1891, we supported 292 paupers.

Number receiving out door relief.....	294
Paid for out door relief.....	\$9,483 00
Maintenance of insane.....	8,396 25
Maintenance of children .....	1,165 50
Maintenance, &c., of feeble-minded.....	411 49

Total expenditures for the year ..... \$49,917 78  
 Cost per capita, \$1.88.

2,800 bushels wheat, 300 bushels rye, 3,000 bushels shelled corn, 2,000 bushels oats, 1,800 bushels potatoes, 200 tons hay; 90 insane at Harrisburg, 18 children at Home for Friendless, 9 children at Home for Feeble-minded at Elwyn, 25 children indentured.

### ERIE COUNTY.

In Erie County we have a population of about 90,000. We have one almshouse located near Erie City close to the Lake Shore Railroad. It is managed by a Board of three Directors, who hold their regular meetings the first Tuesday in each month, when all the business of the Board is done. We employ one steward and matron. For the year 1890 the number of inmates supported was about 185, seventeen of these are imbeciles, which are kept in our insane department for women. In addition to these we have fifty-five insane at Warren Hospital. Our out-door relief numbers about 800, principally women and children, nearly 500 of this number are children of families helpless. In addition to these there are about sixty-five insane from our county kept at Warren by order of Court whom the County Commissioners look after and pay for. The Insane Hospitals at this end of the State are too full, more room is needed badly. We have five children at the Feeble-minded school at Elwyn; other children that we have to take charge of entirely we place in the Home for the Friendless at \$1.50 per week. The ladies of the Home find good homes for these children as fast as they can. Great credit is due the ladies of this institution.

We have in our Almshouse a male and a female hospital, with a paid nurse for each, also for the imbeciles. The cooking for the in-

mates is done by a paid cook. We use natural gas for heating and light principally. We have in connection with the buildings 140 acres of land, all tillable. We employ one farm hand as overseer, the balance of the help on the farm are inmates, by whom the work is principally done. We raise about half the wheat that is used in the house and all the potatoes and vegetables. We raise our own pork and some beef. We believe in giving outside aid.

1st. It helps to prevent suffering in families who have been unfortunate through sickness or otherwise and a little aid helps them till they get well enough to care for themselves.

2d. We consider it a matter of economy. We have a large number of widows with families of small children, with no property, who cannot take care of their families; by giving them provisions to the amount of two to six dollars per month they get along. We investigate all cases before giving aid. The entire expense of caring for our poor and insane, together with some improvements, for the year 1890 was \$33,489.58; Almshouse expenses, \$14,255; building and repairing, \$2,319.89; out-door relief, \$8,292.11; insane, \$4,652; children in homes, \$79.22; salaries and other outside expenses, \$3,890.71. We purchase our supplies in the open market except coal.

#### LACKAWANNA COUNTY—Scranton Poor District.

Expense of poor district for 1890 as follows: Improvements and repairs, \$16,500.00; out-door relief, \$17,000.00; expense for caring for poor and insane at the Home, \$31,288.78. Total cost to district, \$64,788.78. Average number of inmates 230, insane 98. Number of families receiving out-door relief, 220. I would say that our Board have furnished transportation to a great many families and individuals who have suddenly lost father or husband, to go home to their friends, both in this country and across the sea where they become self-supporting with little aid from their friends. We have erected a very fine barn 40x60 with a cement floor, also a fine pig-gery, slaughter room, &c., on the most improved plan with cement floor. Have erected some very convenient sheds that furnish protection to our stock yards. Our home is in a flourishing condition, a great deal of which is due to the support which is received from our resident physician, Dr. B. F. Evans, and cheerful support of our Board of Directors, particularly the Home Committee; this committee consists of three members of the Board who visit the Home once a week. They have some good suggestions which are both useful and practical.

## LACKAWANNA COUNTY—Ransom Poor House.

I would say that our district is known as the Ransom Poor House District. This district was incorporated by act of May 8th, 1857, as Jenkins Township, Pittston Borough and Pittston Township Poor District. Part of this district is in the County of Lackawanna and the other part in Luzerne County. It extends north to south about ten miles with an average width of six miles east to west, covering an area of sixty square miles with a population of fifty odd thousand.

Our Home for the Poor is in Ransom Township, six miles north of Pittston on the Lehigh Valley Railroad and along the Susquehanna River. At this Home we have 250 acres of land, most of which is cleared, well fenced and in a good state of cultivation. The principle building at this Home is of brick, 206x40 feet and four stories in height, including the basement. It is heated with steam and has all the other necessary modern improvements. In the male department there are forty inmates and in the female twenty-two and three children. We have thirty-four insane patients at the Danville Hospital and one child at the Elwyn Training School.

Our land, buildings and personal property is estimated as worth \$70,000. We owe nothing except our current monthly bills and we have money enough in the Treasurer's hands to pay those bills twice over. We have a steward, a matron, three hired girls, two teamsters and one man to be with and direct the inmates who are always employed on the farm or around the buildings. Our Home always rated high for its order and cleanliness. Seven of those males and seven of the females were sent to this Home on account of their feeble condition of mind. All of these now are quiet and entirely harmless. None of them are restrained of their liberty any more than the ordinary inmate. Their actions show that they are very pleased with their home and there's no effort made on their part to leave from there. They are as kindly treated in every way and as well cared for by those having charge over them, as are the deserving domestics at the well to do farmer's home.

Our inmates get plenty of good food and fruits and vegetables without stint. They have at all times the appearance of a happy family. We gave out-door relief last year to the amount of \$2,500, which is all that the law permits us to give. This was distributed among sixty-five or seventy families.



## LANCASTER COUNTY REPORT.

Daily average number inmates in 1890.....	423
Cost of maintenance for 1890.....	\$53,000
Number on out-door relief .....	161
No additional names added on the out-door list for the past three years.	

Grant temporary relief in extreme cases.

Out-door relief paid 1890.....	\$3,500
--------------------------------	---------

Officers.—Geo. E. Worst, Superintendent; D. Frank Kline, Residing Physician.

Employees.—2 engineers, 2 farmers, 1 baker, 1 watchman, 6 insane attendants, 4 hospital nurses.

Number of inmates to-day :

Almshouse.....	210
Insane.....	103
Hospital.....	80
Total.....	393

Elwyn Institution.....	18
Harrisburg.....	47
Children boarding.....	11

76

Supported by County.....

469

## MERCER COUNTY REPORT.

Mercer County is located in the northwest part of the State, and is bounded on the north by Crawford county, on the east by Venango and Butler counties, on the south by Lawrence county and on the west by the State of Ohio. It has an area of 650 square miles and contains a population of some 56,000 inhabitants. Mercer county is divided into agriculture and grazing purposes, also manufacturing and mining operations. Mercer county, as early as 1851, obtained a charter for an almshouse, purchased a farm one and one-fourth of a mile north of Mercer and erected a brick building for poor purposes; and then since, at a later time, we purchased more land and built a very good almshouse, at a cost of \$100,000—containing 225 acres of land. It is managed by a Board of Directors of three, who are paid by the day for their services.

We employ a steward and matron that take charge of the house, farm and inmates, and in this way we succeed in getting very much work out of the inmates, both in the house and also on the farm. And as our steward is not just now present, I will report number of inmates in the house to be about 95. These are principally old men and women, infirm and crippled. These have been kept at an expense of about \$7,620, including all expenses of farm, hired help, repairs, &c.

Then the productions of the farm is as follows:—100 tons of hay; 350 bushels of wheat; 850 of oats; 1200 of corn; 750 of potatoes, and garden vegetables. We keep 5 head of horses, 18 cows, 1 yoke of oxen, 1 bull, 30 head young cattle, about 30 head of hogs, young and old.

Then we have an out-side relief of some six hundred and twenty, for which we pay out about six thousand four hundred and seventy-five dollars (\$6,475.00) to assist to get along. Then add to this some 27 at Warren Asylum, that cost us about \$2,335.00. And then take doctor bills, funeral bills, removal of paupers, stewards, matron and Director's expenses, and we have in round figures the sum of \$22,000 00. This is levied by a tax by the County Commissioners as county tax and paid out on the Directors' order issued monthly to pay the bills.

The out-side relief is one of importance in our county, as it saves us from dividing many families. In some cases only one member of the family is afflicted and in others temporary sickness, others widowed mothers with children, and by the system of out-side relief, judiciously managed, helps them along and keeps families together. And so that we as Directors can wisely manage and look carefully after this part of the work, we divide the county, to each Director a part, and he looks after his own part. So we think no more danger exists in this than in any other part of the work; all of which is respectfully submitted.

#### OXFORD AND LOWER DUBLIN REPORT.

We have 45 inmates, and have none that are able-bodied—none but the sick and infirm are kept here. We have 22 insane patients at Norristown which cost \$1,711.50, and have lodged for November, December, January, February, March and April 357 tramps. We have sold off the farm hay, straw, &c., amounting to \$2,070.40. There has been raised on the farm and consumed in the house vegetables to the amount of \$1,018.49. We have paid in salaries \$900;

out-door relief \$1,555.14, and paid out in general expenses \$5,737.49. We have paid in commission, hired labor, interest to Blockley of Allegheny Poor District, \$2,256.39. And our receipts have been from all sources \$13,637.21, and have paid off a loan of \$985.25.

#### LEHIGH COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

Almshouse is situated 4 miles west of Allentown. Our poor district comprises the whole county of Lehigh, with a population of 80,000. Present number of inmates 198—135 males and 63 females. Average number of inmates during the year was 210. Number of persons receiving out-door relief during the year was 150. Our alms-house expenses were \$16,558.41. Out-door relief expenses \$3,891.59. Total alms-house expenses \$20,450. We have a farm of 250 acres ; all under cultivation. We employ one farm hand as overseer. All work on the farm is done by the inmates. We raise nearly all the wheat that is consumed in our house, and all the potatoes and vegetables. We raise our own pork and some beef. We give out-door aid principally to widows and children. We give from two to seven dollars per month. We investigate all cases before giving aid. Many families, through misfortune by sickness or otherwise, would suffer if out-side aid were not given, and by helping them a short time many of them take care of themselves. We have at present 46 patients in Insane Asylum at Norristown, 7 children in Feeble-minded school at Elwyn, and 18 children in the care of Ladies' Aid Society.

#### PERRY COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

Number of persons supported during the year in the Home, sixty. Number receiving out door support about ninety, besides the families of some of them.

Our total expenses last year of the institution was about \$6,000. The present year it will be more, on account of making some repairs to the house, and purchasing some new agricultural implements.

## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY.

Our average number of inmates during the year was 203, admitted during the year, 140 ; born, 5 ; discharged, 115 ; indentured, 3 ; died, 21 ; absconded, 3. Expenditures for the year, \$16,454.10, which was paid out as follows : For salaries, \$3,168.78 ; home expenses, \$6,451.03 ; farming expenses, \$823.26 ; repairs on buildings, \$429.88 ; out-door relief, \$2,589.52 ; distributed to ninety-five persons, for support of County children, \$2,992.63. Nine of these children are in private families, twenty-five in children's Homes and nine in Feeble-minded Home at Elwyn.

We have ninety-five insane at Morristown Hospital, but as our County Commissioners pay for their support, it is not included in our almshouse expenditures.

## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY—Sunbury Borough Poor District.

Sunbury Borough Poor District is situated on the Western border of Northumberland County with a population of nearly 7,000. The poor house for this district is situated south of the town, one mile from the Borough limits. (There is a large two story brick house with basement, kitchen and one and one-half acres of ground.) This is the poor house for Sunbury Borough. The average number of inmates during the year just passed was three and seven-tenths. The entire expenditure for the current year was about \$3,100, divided about as follows :

Provisions, &c.....	\$870 00
Physicians and medicine.....	65 00
Fuel and light.....	61 00
Clothing and bedding.....	21 00
Insane.....	622 00
Repairs, &c.....	234 00
Salaries.....	205 00
Incidental.....	80 00
Burials.....	160 00
Out-door relief.....	650 00
Transportation.....	65 00

We keep one child in the Home for Crippled Children in Philadelphia and two adults in private families, the entire cost of which is \$300. This I think will cover about all the information called for.



### PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—Blockley Almshouse and Philadelphia Hospital.

Since your last meeting extensive improvements have been made in this institution ; two large T shaped ward buildings have been added to the insane department ; they are two stories high, 132 feet by 129 feet, with all the modern improvements for ventilation, heating, bath rooms, etc., and will accommodate about 100 patients in each. In addition to these a combination dining room, servery and kitchen is nearing completion ; the dining room is 203 feet long by 100 feet wide with a partition running the length of it to separate the sexes ; the servery is 25x100 feet and the kitchen is 63x60 feet. Over the servery and part of the dining room a second story is provided in which are the dormitories, bath rooms, water closets, etc., for 100 attendants. Under the kitchen is the boiler and engine room which is supplied with all the accessories for furnishing steam for cooking purposes and running the blowers for ventilating and heating the new ward buildings. Tunnels connect the wards with the dining room. A laundry building is also in course of erection. It will be 186 feet long and 82 feet wide with furnace for consuming refuse from hospital and sterilizing room for disinfecting purposes. It will be supplied with machinery capable of washing at least 30,000 pieces per week. The cost of these improvements will be about \$250,000. The walls and ceilings of a number of of the wards in the older buildings have been re-plastered and painted during the year and they have been improved very much.

The expenditures to September 30th have been :

Maintenance, repairs, etc.....	\$260,865 79
On account of new buildings.....	191,392 04
Outside expenses.....	27,313 75
Total.....	<u>\$479,571 58</u>

The outside expenses include the board of 49 children with Children's Aid Society, 104 at Pennsylvania Training School, nine at St. John's Orphan Asylum, 13 at St. Vincent's Home, six blind men at Pennsylvania Working Home for Blind Men, one man and one woman at Deaf and Dumb Institution and clothing for three inmates at Pennsylvania Institution for Instruction of the Blind ; beside the salaries of out-door physicians and the medicines and dietetic food furnished outside patients. No other outside relief is granted.

We have a Chief Resident Physician with two assistants; a staff of 20 Resident Physicians; a Visiting Staff of 40 Surgeons and Physicians on the Medical Board; 110 Nurses in the Training school and 34 male attendants in the Male Insane Department.

The census of inmates on September 30th, 1891, was:—

Number in the House at 12 o'clock, M..... 2854  
 Number in the House same time last year..... 2805—increased 49  
 Number in the House at last monthly meeting, 2807—increased 47

#### RECAPITULATION.

Admitted since last report, August 31st,.....	496
Births.....	9
Discharged.....	359
Deaths.....	61
Eloped.....	38
Indentured.....	—

The inmates are classified as follows :

#### GENERAL HOSPITAL.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd.
Surgical Wards ...	96	11	Surgical Wards.....	37	4
Medical Wards....	239	10	Medical Wards.....	104	9
Venereal Wards... 33	5		Venereal Wards....	27	1
Ophthalmic Wards. 11	1		Obstetrical Wards		
Obstetrical Wards,			(Adults)... ..	30	4
(Babies).....			" Wards.....		
Nervous Wards....	158	10	Ophtalmic Wards....	7	
	<u>537</u>	<u>37</u>	Nervous Wards.....	71	4
				<u>276</u>	<u>22</u>

#### INSANE HOSPITAL.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd.
Insane.....	389	19	Insane.....	37	4
Insane and Epileptic	28	3	Insane and Epileptic	38	2
Imbeciles and Idiots	25	1	Imbeciles and Idiots	17	
	<u>442</u>	<u>23</u>		<u>413</u>	<u>39</u>

## NURSERY.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White	Col'd.
Babies.....	15	2	Women.....	22	2
			Babies.....	13	2
				<u>35</u>	<u>4</u>

## CHILDREN'S ASYLUM.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd.
Boys.....	12	2	Adults.....	2	
Boys on trial and in homes.....	62	14	Girls.....	4	1
	<u>74</u>	<u>16</u>	Girls on trial and in homes.....	41	8
				<u>47</u>	<u>9</u>

## OUT-WARDS.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd
Superannuated.....	317	17	Superannuated....	213	9
All others.....	294	6	All others.....	129	3
	<u>611</u>	<u>23</u>		<u>342</u>	<u>12</u>

## RECAPITULATION.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd
Out-wards.....	611	23	Out-wards.....	342	12
General Hospital....	537	37	General Hospital....	276	22
Insane Hospital.....	442	23	Insane Hospital....	413	39
Nursery.....	15	2	Nursery.....	35	4
Children's Asylum..	74	16	Children's Asylum...	47	9
	<u>1679</u>	<u>101</u>		<u>1113</u>	<u>86</u>

Inmates of the Out-wards already enumerated, regularly employed in—

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd.
Out-wards.....	284	4	Out-wards.....	129	3
General Hospital....	2				
Insane Hospital.....	1				
Women's Out-Wards.	6				
Children's Asylum..	1				
	<u>294</u>	<u>4</u>		<u>129</u>	<u>3</u>

## SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.

Following is desired report of Board of Poor Directors of Schuylkill County for the year 1890:

1.--Number of persons supported during the year.....	839
2.--Number of families receiving out-door relief during the year.....	868
3.--Total of Almshouse and out-door relief expenses during year.....	\$61,961 70

## SOMERSET COUNTY ALMSHOUSE—Report.

Whole number of inmates in the Home.....	75
Males 51, females 24.	
Whole number receiving out-door relief.....	78
Males 32, females 46.	
Children in private families.....	9
Males 5, females 4.	
Children in Feeble-minded school at Elwyn.....	3
Males 2, females 1.	
Children in Reform school at Morganza.....	5
Males 4, females 1.	
Inmates at State Hospitals.....	10
Males 8, females 2.	
Children bound out.....	48
Males 26, females 22.	
Average cost per week.....	\$.1 40
Number of deaths.....	12
Number discharged.....	11
Tramps relieved.....	600

A new building is in course of erection, with all necessary and modern improvements, costing.....	\$ 7,000 00
Value of Poor House property including farm.....	36,000 00
Cost of maintaining of Home per annum.....	6,600 00

Board of Directors, Alexander Hunter, President of Board; Frederick Weller, William Dickey; Steward, John C. Miller; Physician, Dr. J. W. Carothers; Chaplain, Rev. F. P. Saylor; Attorney and Secretary, L. C. Colborn.

## WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Number of persons supported during the year.....	241
Number of persons receiving out-door relief.....	46
Amount of out-door relief and almshouse expenses....	\$14,938 52



All that has been said with reference to the continued interest on the part of the Directors of other counties, in adopting the best methods of caring for the poor, and concerning the past and present efficiency of the steward and his assistants, can be very properly said with reference to Washington County. The number of inmates is decreasing, although the population of the county is rapidly increasing.

*Mr. Lawrence* (of Blockley Almshouse): The gentleman (Mr. Linderman) speaks of the Directors of Charities of Pittsburgh directing their attention to the reduction of pauperism. I would like to know in what manner it was done.

*Mr. Linderman*: When Mr. Elliott took charge there, there were many men and women sent to the institution who were able to make a living outside. Chief Elliott determined to cut that class off, as it simply encouraged pauperism, and he has done it very effectually. Mr. Hoffman makes a thorough examination into every applicant, and no one is admitted except on a permit from the Chief of the Department of Charities, and no tramps are entertained, even for one hour, there.

*Mr. Lawrence* (Blockley Almshouse): I take it for granted that this convention is to get ideas from each other, and when a gentleman makes a statement as important as this I think every one in this room should have an understanding as to how they reduce pauperism. The fact shows that it was reduced in a very proper way. I have been doing that in Philadelphia in the same way. I send them to the House of Correction and I have that class of pauperism pretty well cut down. We have 3,300 people and it is an important matter to be able to cut off any.

*Mr. G. W. Cutshall*, (Crawford County): Crawford is the line county and connected with Erie. Most of the county is tillable land. We have a farm of nearly 300 acres. The poor house is located north from Meadville four and a half miles. The greatest number of inmates we have had that belonged to us was 115. At the end of the month of September we had 94, and have received five since that, making 99. We slaughter all our own meat, make all our own butter. We raise about two-thirds of our wheat, for our bread.

*Mr. Kramer*, (Cumberland County): I will confine myself to the suggestions of the programme. We supported during the last year an average number of 105. We have now 97 in the house. Three years ago there were 120 or 130 inmates. The number of persons receiving out-door relief was 102. We are organized and governed by a special act of Assembly and have three Directors, two holding over and one being elected each year. The County of Cumberland extends from near Harrisburg up the Cumberland Valley to where it joins Franklin County. The Directors have this district divided into three sub-divisions and have a representative who takes care of his special division. He approves or disapproves the money for out-door relief. If it is necessary to pay the rent for a family he pays it. We find that a great many, by the payment of their rent can make a living. These gentlemen report to our Treasurer, and the community in general don't know, in that way, who receive aid, and we think that preserves their self respect. The amount of out-door relief was about \$2,650. The amount of almshouse expenses and the out-door relief expenses would be about \$16,000. Per capita, \$1.62.

*Mr. Etter* (Franklin County): I will answer the questions as they are. If I recollect right there were 115 persons in the almshouse during the last year. We are now down to 98 and have been down to 90. We afforded out-door relief to 160 persons. We have a population of about 60,000. Our out-door expenses per month run to about \$300. The number of persons in the almshouse eight years ago, when I took charge of it was 185. Our actual expenses for all purposes during the last year was about \$17,000. Out of that about \$11,000 for Directors' salaries and house expenses, the balance for repairs, outside expenses, etc. We have a childrens' home where we support from 15 to 20 children at \$1.75 a week, and we have a number of children throughout other counties. We have some at private boarding houses, and then we have in the insane department at Harrisburg some six or seven. I think that is about all I have to answer, according to the directions of the programme. We have "chickens and turkeys and ducks."

*Mr. Heck* (Huntington County): Our district is all of Huntington County, and we have about 36,000 or 37,000. It is managed by three Directors, each having his own district to look after. We have had in the house about 50, there was 51 in there last Thursday. We give outside relief to about 200, ranging from two to seven dollars a month, and averaging about \$4.50 a month. We have five in the insane hospital at Harrisburg. We have 11 children in the Orphans' Home in Huntington and quite a number scattered throughout the State. We have a farm of 174 acres, raise all our own wheat and sometimes have it to sell. The expenses last year were \$10,000, that is including some new machinery bought and some stock.

*Col. Gould*, (Erie County): I was very much surprised at a portion of the report from Adams County, reporting some 2,200 tramps cared for; and as that is near Gettysburg, and as I am an old soldier I thought it might be inferred that they treated all the old soldiers as tramps. I would like an explanation.

*Mr. Stock*: I reported 1,722, which we gave supper, lodging and breakfast and sent them on their way rejoicing.

After some discussion it was finally agreed to go to the almshouse at 2 P. M. to-morrow.

Mr. John R. Jones, of Lackawanna County, submitted and read the following paper on "Poor Houses and Poor Farms:"

### POOR HOUSES AND POOR FARMS.

It would be very difficult indeed, for me to give you experienced Directors of the Poor any new points on this subject. You have doubtless heard it frequently discussed, and now regard it as a hackneyed topic. At previous annual meetings of this Association, you have heard valuable hints and suggestions on this theme, but I will venture the assertion that very few of them have ever been carried into effect. We are impressed at the time with their importance, but when we return home, they take wings and fly away. So that it may not be out of place to have frequent reminders in this behalf of our responsible duties as guardians of the dependent poor. This subject is an every day subject; one which confronts us at every step during



our official terms. For this reason many Directors of the Poor are wont to believe that they know everything worth knowing concerning the same. But there is still room to improve the condition of the unfortunate pauper and to make his sad lot in life brighter and happier, and any suggestions or plans which have this object in view deserve our serious consideration. To my surprise, I have heard some Poor Directors remark in a cold, uncharitable manner, "Anything is good enough for the paupers, they cannot expect much anyway." This is not the proper spirit to show. There is an air of icy-coldness about the remark that is not in accord with a sympathetic heart.

Many of the inmates of our almshouses assisted in developing our anthracite and bituminous coal lands, manufactured our coke, felled our forests, tilled and cultivated our farms, built our magnificent edifices, constructed our railroads, made our turnpikes and public roads, worked our iron and steel, in fact they were once engaged in all our varied industries and enterprises. Many of them once had pleasant and comfortable homes, surrounded by their families. But misfortune came at last, and deprived them of all their earthly possessions. They were then thrown on the charity of the public, "Over the hills to the poor-house." It makes no difference what caused that misfortune, whether the weakness in their own characters or some unforeseen calamity, they are still entitled to our sympathy. And we should do everything in our power in the regulation of the poor-house, consistent with a proper expenditure of the public taxes, to make their condition comfortable. The sentiment that "Anything is good enough for the paupers," should find no encouragement among us. It is not necessary to be extravagant in order to treat the paupers properly. Our poor-houses should be good substantial buildings, well ventilated and kept scrupulously clean. The surroundings should be pleasant and attractive. Nice, well-cut lawns, shade trees and flower-beds here and there are to be commended, and are evidence of good taste on the part of the Directors. It is a pleasure to visit such an institution. The effect of such surroundings has an elevating tendency on the minds of the inmates. What a pleasant and agreeable contrast is such an institution when compared with the almshouse encircled by mud-holes, stones and rubbish, with cattle running at large through the grounds! Directors should give this subject more attention, and improve the external appearance of their institutions. It is also an evidence of good management. It is presumed, of course, that we all know our legal duties which the laws of the Commonwealth place upon us con-



cerning the support of the dependent poor and the regulations of the habitations provided by the peoples' taxes for their shelter, yet there are other duties which we owe to the poor that might with propriety be termed extra-legal duties. Duties which the laws do not provide for. Moral duties which we owe to humanity. And these duties will be suggested to us by our own consciences, if our hearts beat in sympathy with and are responsive to the needs of the poor. Many Directors seem perfectly satisfied with themselves if they live up to the letter of the law, in their ministrations to the poor. This is not enough. The paupers have a right to expect more from us in their helpless condition. Our poor laws do not cover all their necessities. Even Directors who have had but limited experience as such, know that to be true. We should study their wants and needs. No general rule can be laid down in this behalf; each individual case depends upon the particular circumstances surrounding it. "Now abideth faith, hope and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity."

Do not regard me as sentimental when I say that I rather like the idea of calling the almshouse—home. The people of Scranton call their institution "Hillside Home." The people of Allegheny County call their institution "Allegheny County Home," likewise Allegheny City people denominate their institution "Allegheny City Home." And there are other like instances in this State. It takes off the rough edge. It sounds more tender and sympathetic to the mother who must enter the doors of the poor-house, and have her children indentured out; it sounds gentler and kinder to the old man who has, perhaps, prospered and lived to see his family grow up to maturity, but who through misfortune must now take up his staff and direct his steps to the poor-house. For what is the almshouse but a home furnished by the people for the care and maintenance of the dependent poor? And it should be made as much like a home as possible.

The paupers should have good, wholesome food, and plenty of it.

They should be properly clothed, and not be permitted to go about in dirty, greasy and ragged clothes as is the case in some poor-houses, as we well know who have visited many public institutions. This should not be tolerated. Directors should not make a poor-house a *poor house* because it is named such. It is a poor-house by name, but should not be managed poorly. Everything connected with it should not be poor because it is a poor-house.

Cleanliness is conducive to good health. There should be a bathtub or tubs in every poor-house, and the paupers should be made to take a bath, at least, once a week. This should be an inflexible rule. It is a point overlooked by many Boards.

The paupers, those who are well enough, should be persuaded to work about the farm. They should not be driven or over-worked. A reasonable amount of physical exercise is beneficial to them. In this way the farm can be brought to a better state of cultivation and more productive. The paupers will be thus enabled to make some recompense for their keeping, which should be a source of gratification to them instead of a burden.

There should be occasional religious service at the poor-house. Because there is a dark cloud over the mortal life of the pauper there is no reason why he should be kept in darkness as to his future or immortal existence. In fact, he is in need of religious hope and comfort much more than those outside of the poor-house. If some of the paupers should be of the Catholic faith, have the priest say mass for them; if others be of the Protestant belief, have religious service in accord with their views. It is no argument against religious services at the poor-house to say that the paupers are of divers views, on the subject of religion.

While it is a fact that a large percentage of the inmates of almshouses cannot read, yet those who can read should be furnished with books, newspapers and magazines that they may improve their minds and keep posted on the current topics and news of the day, and the information thus acquired, they can impart to their companions who are not so fortunate as to know how to read. There is no sense or reason for keeping from the minds of the paupers, all knowledge of what is going on in the outside world. The newspaper comes like a ray of sunshine even to these poor creatures. If we were to take a vote now as to how many Boards furnish periodicals to their poor, I will venture the prediction that there would be a great many nays.

The walls of the poor-house should not be perfectly bare like the prison cell. A few good pictures hung upon the walls will have an elevating and refining tendency, and make the poor-house look more like a home. A few mottoes hung here and there having for their inscriptions "Blessed are the poor," or something similar, would have a like tendency.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* I think the paper a valuable one, and there is one particular point that I would like to bring out and that is

the question of furnishing literature for the paupers. I know of but two counties that furnish newspapers for their poor in the county institutions, and I think at least the papers published in the county should be furnished in sufficient quantity to supply those who desire to read. Besides that there should be libraries. I observe that old people, especially, are very much inclined to read, if they can, and it is a delight to them in their declining years.

*Mr. Colborn*, (Somerset County): I listened to the paper of my friend from Scranton with a great deal of interest, and in many ways I heartily concur with him in what he says. "Poor Houses and Poor Farms" have received the consideration of the people for many years, and how best to care for the poor, has called this Convention together some seventeen times. It is true that the word "poor-house" is disgusting and revolting to many of the poor, and the cry comes up from many "let me die before I go the poor house." Why is this? There is some cause for it. Is it because those who have the care of the poor-houses do not extend to them that sympathy they are entitled to receive? It is a fact, as all here know, that the inmates of many institutions have been cruelly treated. We cannot shut our eyes to that fact.

It was in times past carried to such an extent that the Legislature had committees appointed to investigate the cruelty heaped upon inmates in the charitable institutions, and that idea has spread broadcast throughout our fair land, and it is on that account that many of our poor do not want to go to the poor-houses. It is not so at the present day as much as it was years ago. Times have changed. The sentiment of the people is how best to manage and care for the poor of our land. To this end the vaults of our State Treasury have been thrown open and magnificent appropriations have been made for the benefit of the poor, and the people rejoice that it is so.

Now as *Mr. Jones* has said the name "poor-house" ought to be banished; it should be called a "home," and that home should be made as pleasant as our own firesides. I don't believe in encouraging pauperism or idleness, and I believe that those who are able to should be made to work. Nearly every one ought to be



made to perform some labor. It is better for them and makes them feel that they have an interest in the Home. Too many of our Directors lay far too much stress on the Poor Farm, instead of the poor-house and the comforts of the inmates. It seems to me sometimes it would be better if the poor houses had but half a dozen acres of land, than to have a farm of four or five hundred acres, and then starve the inmates to death. Some of them expend more money to keep the farm than to maintain the inmates.

In our Home we have, I am proud to say, a fund set aside for literature and for buying books and magazines for the inmates. We take every county paper. There are several daily papers brought there and a large circulating library, from which the inmates can receive books. In every home there are a number who cannot do anything. They are crippled, etc., and the only pleasure and comfort they have is in reading. By thus reading they can entertain the others.

I know of a county home that built up a large library by inviting publishing houses throughout the State to contribute books to the library. Nearly every home can do that and they can hold a little entertainment, etc., by which they can start a library.

Now with regard to religious exercises, this question was debated fully at Altoona. I think it was Mr. Hope of Chester, who had sent out a postal card, inquiring of every Home in the State how often they held religious exercises and whether or not they had a paid Chaplain. To the utter surprise of everyone very few Homes had secured the services of a regular Chaplain, and a few had no exercises whatever, and many of them but occasionally. Now if there is anything, it seems to me, that has a tendency to enlighten and place people on the plan of thinking—anything that will bring comfort to the hearts of the aged and the sick, it is the reading of God's Word. I would recommend these exercises every day. You send your children away to school, and among the things that you inquire about is whether they have religious exercises. We cannot ask too much that God's mercy be shown to the poor and unfortunate. I would say that every morning in every almshouse there should be religious services.

*Mrs Swartz (Adams County):* I have felt very much interested in this paper and in the remarks upon it, and feel like saying



"amen" to all of it, and I want to say that in our County Home we have been able to teach two blind people to read and it has been a great joy to see how much they appreciate it. One of them is an old man who had never learned to read, before he was blind, and now he rejoices in all his heart that he can read portions of God's Word himself, and he will commit a whole chapter. And I want to say that the Bible Society will loan books with raised letters for the blind, for that purpose. You can borrow them and return them. You can easily get someone in the district to teach the blind, without any charge. We have also one woman who sometimes receives out-door relief who is now learning to read. She did read German until she lost her eyes and quite recently we have procured a part of the Bible in German in raised letters and she is learning to read that with a great deal of joy.

*Rev. Dr. Billheimer*, (Berks County): Ladies and Gentlemen: I felt like congratulating myself and the State of Pennsylvania upon this representation in the interests of the poor. It is certainly a matter of gratification. I feel proud of the fact that here are persons who are charged with the care of the poor, of every county in the State. There is a great significance in this. It seems to me that we are about the only country that takes care of its poor and looks after its unfortunate. It is not true as one goes over the world that this same spirit extends all over the earth. There are some countries where the poor are utterly disregarded. Their wants and necessities are all neglected. It is due in part to the fact that back of all this is Christianity. I believe that Christianity lies at the bottom of this all. Certainly in the lands where the poor are neglected there is very little Christianity.

I think if we had no poor—no one around us that claimed our attention—we would be the most selfish people in the world. We are rather selfish as it is. It is hard to get away from our interests and look to those of others. I think the poor are here, in part, for that purpose; certainly their presence calls out our sympathies. It makes us have a fellow-feeling for them and stirs us up to help them in their wants.

*Rev. R. C. Wolf*, (Washington County): I think we need, as much as anything, an exchange of experience. We certainly

have assembled to tell to one another our experience along the line of this subject, and certainly this gentleman has in his paper many things that we ought to remember. Experience is a valuable teacher. One of the greatest Bishops of the church has said to those he was about to send out into the ministry, "At least you can tell your experience." A man surely isn't wholly prepared to preach salvation to others until he has been himself saved. And that paper we think in our county is a valuable one, because we can lay our experience side by side with those mentioned in the paper. In our county we take nearly all the county papers some four or five, two or three religious papers, and Sunday School papers, and these are distributed freely among the inmates. We have preaching every two weeks in the afternoon. I have the pleasure of having been Chaplain there for some years, and of having attended this Convention for some years, and it is one of the pleasantest works I ever engaged in. I have charge of a congregation near the County Home and they invite me to come and preach every two weeks, and they pay me enough to pay my expenses. I have derived a great deal of pleasure from it. No one can succeed in ministering to the poor in any way, unless he himself shall take delight in it. I have been so long engaged in preaching to the same people that they have become to me a part of my family. I don't know how I could part with them. I hope that my experience and our county's experience will encourage others in this same work.

*Mr. Myers, (York):* We have a Chaplain who has been with us some thirty years, who preaches every Sunday. If he doesn't preach he sends some one. The members of the Y. M. C. A. come and talk and pray with our people. They keep the papers of the county there. The W. C. T. U. send the papers. We have some inmates who cannot read, and they are presented with cards and pictures, etc.

*Mr. Bowen, (Northumberland):* Let us see whether we can find out the cause of pauperism. We have all been trying to find out how to handle it. When a disease becomes epidemic we try to find remedies. I make these remarks to try and hear some

talk on it. We have this disease with us, and let us try and find the best means to handle it. We will try to find its cause. Now I would like to hear some talk on that.

*Mr. Reamer*, (Westmoreland County), made some remarks concerning the care of crippled children, that he said the Children's Aid Society of their county declined to care for.

The representatives of the Children's Aid Societies present, explained that their societies would and did care for all such children.

*Col. Gould*, (Erie): We have strayed a great ways from the subject. Some reflection has been made here—but here are some 200 people who have neglected their business at great personal inconvenience to come here without expectation of benefit or reward, to consult how best to take care of our poor—and that should be an answer to everything that reflects on the motives of the Directors of the Poor or the Aid Societies.

We have beautiful theories of how the poor ought to be cared for. Any one can build castles in the air. But let us get down to the practical workings that the Directors of the Poor have to meet. In the first place, there are no two districts that are worked the same or managed in the same way. We come here hampered when we come to consult how best to take care of the poor. What one district can do another is prohibited by law from doing. It is a disgrace, and we want to get into a position where we can work together. It is all very beautiful to talk about making the Homes comfortable and like our own homes. Why, God bless you, that would be all right if they could think as we do, and know and see the beautiful and the comforts, but about three out of four of them, it is all that can be done to make them decent to be in any one's company. [Applause.]

You go to an almshouse and you will meet a man on the street and talk sentiment to him, and religion and charity and the beauties of nature, and when you have said all you can he will turn around and say "give me a penny." Now these are facts. There are a few in the poor-houses such as have been spoken of, but they are very few. We have to exercise all our ingenuity to keep the most of them fit to be seen. They appreciate neither love for them nor anything else. Some have but one faculty well developed



and that is their stomach, and they don't appreciate anything that you don't put into that. We must realize these things. A very few come within the category of those spoken of, and it is the duty to see that those are put as much by themselves as possible and that they have these privileges. It is a study and a gift, to know what to do, and there is about one in a thousand who has the faculty to make a success of it.

Directors of the Poor in this State cannot always do as they would like to. Why? They are elected as a political office, and if they spend any money it is talked of in the newspapers, and they try to turn them out of office. You take one of our Stewards from an almshouse and one who is gifted for the position, and let him manage it as it should be, and the first thing you know there will be a political movement against him. They commence to knife him. These are facts, too. I don't believe there is a Director of the Poor in Pennsylvania who is governed in his actions, if he is fit for the place, by the pay he gets. I agree with the gentleman, (Mr. Reamer,) that it is a disgrace, the small pay they get. In my county, with 90,000 inhabitants they get but \$50 a year, but I tell you they do their duty as well as if they got \$500. And that is the way they should do. They have no business to take the office unless they are willing to fill it well. They ought to be better paid. Now let us get at the practical part and let theory alone. [Applause.]

*Mr. Cutshall*, (Crawford County): I am glad there is one in the house who has seen the workings of the almshouse, and knows something about it and can tell it. There is more to be contended with than most people think. The magazines and newspapers and preachers all do us good but they only affect a small portion. There is about one out of seven that is "God's poor," and the rest something else, but we have got to look after them. I would like to have one or two things answered here by some Director—what to do with the persons managed who have no business in the poor-house; who are able to take care of themselves, as well as you or I, but they have to keep out of the work-house and have got into the poor-houses. They won't work and will only stay there to eat. They go away and come back to you drunk; they steal



the clothes you give to the worthy ones and buy whiskey with it; they are sound in their mind except when drunk. What would you do with your theory, for them?

Then there is another class—we have eleven papers in the county and I give the inmates the use of them all. There are four or five printing houses in the county and they give me their exchanges. A gentleman from Titusville sent me a box of nearly 200 pounds of magazines and books, and I distributed them among the poor. We have preaching once in two weeks by a very good man, regularly, and he is paid, and the Catholic priest comes once a month, and I think they all do use some good—make the people a little better.

As to the library, I don't know what to do. Some of these people have two appetites, one is to eat all they can hold, and the other is to steal all they can hide, but we haven't very many of those. I would like one question answered; what shall we do with one who comes and goes when he pleases, and eats all that he can get, and steals everything that he can carry away, and sells it for whiskey? and whether or not one has the right to go away and remain as long as he pleases, and return at his will, and we be obliged to put up with it all? I take no greater pleasure than in caring for those who are "God's poor," those that are there for a cause; but those that I have spoken of, they are the people that give us trouble.

*Mr. Hope, (Chester):* Such a man has no business in an almshouse. We never take such a person. If they drink whiskey they have no business there. Now in regard to our friend from Erie, (Mr. Gould,) I think it is our duty to do all we can for the poor; some of those cases where you talk to them and they "ask for a penny" that he referred to, those cases had bad early training and we should bear with them and try to lift them up if possible.

In regard to the paper: I was much pleased with the most of it; the idea of the name is a great thing. Many persons feel a stigma attached to the name of poor-house. It is an "easing up" when we say "county-home." In regard to putting pictures around the wall, I think it is a good thing, and elevating to the poor people. Some of them cannot read, but they can look

at a picture, and one can teach another what it means, etc. It is all very well to talk about literature, but there is one thing above all that, the Bible, that should be in everyone's hands, whether or not they can read, and they should be taught to love it. It should be printed in large print so that old people can read. They love to have the Bible. If asked each Director here how many Bibles they have in their institutions it would be a little like the religious services that were spoken of. Now it is our duty to keep the Bible in their hands whether or not they can read it. Teach them to reverence it.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* I move that this discussion now close. Agreed to.

*Mr. Jones, (of Lackawanna):* I move that a committee of three be appointed to audit the Treasurer's account, and report assessment for this year. Agreed to.

*Mr. Jones:* I move that a committee of five be appointed on place of meeting next year. Agreed to..

*Mr. McGonnigle:* When they decide where we are to meet, let them first consider the matter of hotel accommodations, and second the matter of railroad facilities for reaching the place. The railroad facilities here are fair, all that could be asked for, but unfortunately the meeting of the Union Veteran Legion has interfered with our hotel accommodations. It is important for these matters to be considered.

*Mr. Jones:* I move that a committee of five be appointed to select officers for the coming year. Agreed to.

*Mr. Jones:* I move that a committee of three or five be appointed on programme. Agreed to.

A motion was here made that the Convention appoint all the committees. This was opposed by Mr. Brumbaugh, Ccl. Gould, of Erie, and Mr. McGonnigle, and it was finally agreed that the President should appoint the committees as has been done heretofore.

*Mr. Jones*, (Lackawanna): I move that a committee of three, of which *Mr. McGonnigle* shall be chairman, be appointed by the President to arrange a programme. Agreed to.

The following committees were announced by President Snyder:

On Place of Meeting: *Jacob Titus*, of Philadelphia; *James B. Myers*, of Adams Co.; *Geo. Hoffman*, of Allegheny Co.; *David H. Ross*, of Montgomery Co.; *Geo. E. Worst*, of Lancaster.

On Officers: Messrs. *Keyser*, of Philadelphia Co.; *Gould*, of Erie Co.; *Williams*, of Lackawanna Co.; *Strine*, of Lancaster Co.; and *Kramer*, of Cumberland Co.

To Audit the Treasurer's Accounts: *Carr*, of Fayette Co.; *Miller*, of Somerset Co.; and *Shalleross*, of Philadelphia.

Upon motion of *Mr. Brumbaugh* the Convention adjourned until 3 P. M.

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## EVENING SESSION.

The Convention was called to order by President Snyder, who stated that he had received a letter from *Dr. I. N. Kerlin*, (who was to have read a paper at this time,) which was read by the Secretary.

ELWYN, DEL. CO., PA., Oct. 11, 1891.

WM. P. HUNKER, Esq.,

My Dear Sir:—I very much regret that sudden and serious sickness in my family prevents me from filling the appointment made to meet your interesting Seventeenth Annual Conference.

The interest in feeble-minded children is a great and growing one, and your Convention of Directors of the Poor is a most suitable body before which to place the necessities of, and measures for the relief of this defective class.

Excepted, as they properly are and must be, from the legal provision already made for children of unimpaired powers, these stricken ones become your own wards wherever family relations cease and they become the objects of charity. I am pleased to bear witness to the tender and liberal consideration you, as Directors of the Poor, have always shown for these "Christ's little ones," and for the generous confidence you have always shown in Elwyn, as the best nursery in the Commonwealth for this affliction.

I very much desired to come before you this year, but hope for your invitation to your next Convention, when I shall expect to present as forcibly as I can, the claims of idiotic and feeble-minded children, for an all-comprehensive system that shall embrace every needy child of this class within the borders of Pennsylvania.

Yours sincerely,

I. N. KERLIN.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* I would like to make a suggestion on the Committee on Programme. By some oversight none of the ladies were appointed on the committees; and I think it would be the proper thing to make that committee five, instead of three, and that two ladies be appointed on that committee and I would make a motion to that effect. Agreed to.

*The President:* That committee will not be announced this evening.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* It is encouraging to me to see so many ladies here to-night. Mrs. Puncheon, representing the Children's Aid Society, was the first lady we ever had meet with us; this was ten years ago; to-night we have about fifty ladies present. It seems to me that the work is having some effect. I think we ought to pay especial attention to the reports of the Children's Aid Societies, and consider the amount of work that these ladies have done and are doing for the Directors of the Poor. I don't think there is a Director of the Poor in the State but who admits that these ladies are a great help to them. I would like them to have all the consideration possible.

On motion "The Work of the Children's Aid Society" was taken up, and Mr. Homer Folks, General Superintendent of the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania, read the following paper:

#### THE CARE OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The subject for our consideration this evening is the best method of caring for such children as may become dependent for their support upon the public authorities of our own State. These children we may divide into two classes, those who through accident or sick-



ness become dependent for a short time only, and those who by loss or unfitness of their natural guardians are given over entirely to the charge of the public authorities.

For the temporary care of children, that plan is best which combines economy and convenience in administration and ensures the welfare of the children. Boarding in proper families we think combines these qualities. The expense is always directly in proportion to the number of children cared for, which in every county must vary greatly from time to time, while in any sort of an institution the expense of providing buildings and teachers and attendants is nearly constant and must be sufficient to care for the largest number who are likely to become public charges.

As to convenience in administration, we have yet to hear of any difficulty and the public officers are relieved of all the burden as the Children's Aid Society offers to do all of the work at its own expense. The advantages of the plan as concerns the children themselves are too obvious to require statement, as even a temporary stay in the ordinary almshouse can but leave its impression upon the mind of a child.

The larger number of these dependent children however are given over entirely into the hands of their new guardians who must then stand in the place of parent to the child. The responsibility of such work is tremendous. Every one who as public official or as the representative of private agencies finds such work laid upon his shoulders, may well ponder carefully all that it means to take charge of the life of a child.

No department of the work of the Directors of the Poor carries such heavy responsibilities as the care of children and no subject, I am bound to say, should receive more careful consideration in such a Convention as this.

In our day many hard things are being said of the pauper class. Terrible pictures are drawn and doleful stories told of their hopeless condition and of the cruel law of heredity which visits the sins of the fathers upon the children of the third and fourth generation. There is ground for such a feeling. No one who has dealt long with this class but has felt at times that every evil under the sun had fastened itself upon them, but let us not be too despondent. It would be a very natural thing if charitable workers rather magnified the evils with which they are dealing. Every person likes to feel that he is engaged in a work of immense difficulty, that it requires unusual tact and fine judgment and great energy. Knowing that we are going to win the victory it is natural, I say, that we should over-estimate rather than under-estimate the numbers and strength of the

enemy. A very large number of dependent children do not belong to the pauper class. They have no connection whatever with real pauperism. Accident, death, misfortune and business reverses are continually throwing upon the public care, children whose blood is absolutely free from such a taint. Let us be careful how we brand all such indiscriminately as paupers, and let us never, by enforced association with the evils we have described, compel them to sink to the level of the genuine pauper. Let us hope that the day is past when the children of respectable parents, innocent, pure-minded and responsive to every impression shall be compelled by the public authority to live in close and daily contact with the idle and most vicious element in the community, for that element is found in every almshouse. You will all agree with me that such children should never cross the threshold of an almshouse. Nor need they. In nearly every county there is a Children's Aid Committee through whom children may be sent directly to a respectable family and where there is no committee the main society stands ready to do the work.

But there are also many children who are connected with the pauper class proper, whose parents have either been inmates of the almshouse or have belonged to that class of society from which the almshouse population is made up. Idleness, inefficiency, vice, disease, intemperance, crime, some or all of these have characterized their progenitors and "do men gather grapes from thorns or figs from thistles." We all believe in heredity; to disbelieve is to be unscientific and unpopular. No one who has been in such work but has seen children under the most favorable conditions, develop unfortunate traits which apparently they must have inherited from their ancestors, yet let us not forget the greater number who under favorable conditions have failed to develop these traits which have disgraced their parents, and simply because they have not developed these traits have almost disappeared from our view.

In the struggle between the forces of heredity and environment we can only see that now this prevails, now that, with the chances in favor of the latter. In less enlightened days men trembled and stood in terror before the manifestation of the forces of nature in the thunder storm. Now we have taught those forces to carry our burdens, to annihilate distance and to make darkness light.

We are catching glimpses now of other forces powerful but mysterious. We call them heredity and environment. We have not yet comprehended their workings but let us not be frightened at them or

bow down before them as to deities, for if we study them as carefully and as scientifically as we have done the forces of nature we shall make them too our servants and not our masters.

In too many cases we have made pauperism hereditary. We have given the child an almshouse for a home and an idiotic woman for a nurse; we have fed him at the table with the feeble-minded and the vicious and have clothed him with the pauper's uniform, we have taken away his self-respect, we have made him breathe the atmosphere of dependency, we have surrounded him with a pauperizing environment and then blamed heredity for the results. Then after a time we have been attacked with remorse and felt that these children because they were unfortunate needed something very different from ordinary children. They must be gathered together and trained and drilled and somehow made over, forgetting that as the best of medicines are good food and pure air, so the greatest blessing that can come to these unfortunate children is good, average, healthy, natural living. A few years since the city of Wayne had a serious problem to consider. It had emptied all of its sewerage in a little piece of woods until that spot had become an offence to the citizens and a menace to the public health. Acting on the principle that the sun and the atmosphere had the power of purifying a certain amount of such matter they forced all the sewerage from that city to the top of a large hill and permitted it to run down the sides, forcing it by proper grading to spread evenly over the whole surface. The sun and the atmosphere and the earth steal away the poisonous properties and what little water reaches the bottom of the hill runs as clear as the water from any spring. It is all done as silently and as perfectly as the trees are grown upon the hillside. The pauper and the criminal classes may be called the sewerage of human society, collected in large masses, corruption and depravity multiply with alarming rapidity. The healthy life of the average community has the power of purifying and restoring to a normal condition a certain amount of this evil. The natural tendency among such classes is to flock together, but it is only by scattering them so the healthy, moral force of the community may take hold of the individual members that we are able to mitigate such evils. Let us keep the children who are free from this evil from coming under its influence; let us transplant the child of less fortunate parentage into a healthy atmosphere, and thus cutting off the supply which has recruited the pauper ranks who shall say what may be accomplished. Such are the aims



we have set before us and the principles upon which we have taken our stand. It may be well to say a few words as to the means or methods by which we work to secure these results.

The first necessity is to find a number of suitable families who will receive children as boarders ; these can be found by advertising. The selection should be made with great care, for the choice of the first few families will largely determine the character of the work in that community. The brothers, cousins, and immediate acquaintances of the men who take the first children will take others. The work naturally spreads, as a miner would say, along certain levels. The boarding homes always need as careful supervision as permanent homes ; in a large number of cases it will be found that they will become permanent. Having settled all of the children in suitable boarding homes, we may proceed to find free homes in those cases where it seems desirable. Everybody believes in finding free homes. They are fearfully cheap and wonderfully easy to find. For little children the sooner such a permanent home is found the better. For children who are a little older, but not yet able to be self-supporting, it may be safely delayed. Many of these children from eight to twelve years of age have been laboring under great disadvantages and are far below the average child of their age in education and development. It is from hurrying such children into free homes where they are expected to earn their way that in some cases trouble has arisen. People take a babe because they want its affection and company ; they do not take a boy of twelve simply because he is lovable. They expect his company and his services, and if we persuade them to take a child whose services are not of value, we have tried to get something for nothing and, like all such people, find that we have made a mistake.

The most important factor in making this work successful is thorough investigation of every home before the child is placed. No amount of subsequent visiting and supervision can make over a poor home into a good one. Even at the risk of losing some desirable applications it is better to insist on thorough knowledge of the family before the child is given into their care. The cast-iron indenture which was once supposed to be a safeguard but later found to be only a hindrance has been, we are glad to say, largely discarded, and in its place has come a flexible agreement suited to the needs of each case. Yet in some counties boys are still bound out to serve their masters until they are twenty-one years of age. The gospel of non-indenture must yet be proclaimed until every county has heard of the better way. The greatest safeguard the child can have is the knowledge on



the part of the master that at any hour the visitor may come without warning and, if he finds the child improperly treated, will remove him immediately. This subsequent visiting should always be unannounced; it should be frequent in some cases, less frequent in others, but never omitted. By these methods we not only believe but we know that a large proportion of these children coming from the pauper classes may be made respectable members of the community. A few will be returned again and again, especially if hurried into free homes, and will be about to be pronounced incorrigible; for such we offer no method. We must simply work with greater care and thoughtfulness. The individual peculiarities of the child must be studied; if a suitable home cannot be found without paying board, board must be paid; and if all measures finally fail an institution is a last and an easy resort.

Every county occasionally finds upon its hands a diseased, deformed or crippled child. The hospitals of Philadelphia stand open for the treatment of such children from any part of the State, and the Children's Aid Society will be glad to act as the agent of the County Committee or the Directors of the Poor in securing admission and making the transfer to the hospital.

Such are the methods by which the Children's Aid Society undertakes to provide for the dependent children of the State. The society has now under its charge a total of not less than 670 children, of whom 400 are under the care of the main society. As its methods are becoming better known its work is being extended. Bradford and Tioga have been among the last to see the advisability of such a plan. Until very recently there have been from twenty-five to forty children in the almshouse of Bradford county. We are glad to be able to state that these children have recently been turned over to the society to be boarded in families, and that hereafter children dependent upon Bradford county will be sent directly to private families through the agency of the committee, and will not be sent even for a short time to the almshouse; thus the last has again become the first. The society hereby makes the same offer to the Directors of the Poor of all counties where there is not a working Children's Aid Committee. We will care for any dependent child in the State; the county to pay \$1.75 per week while the child is being boarded.

To the members of the various County Committees who may be present I need say but little except to emphasize the value of a close co-operation between the various County Committees and between the County Committees and the main society. Many children will do much better when placed, either boarding or permanently, in other

counties than the one in which they are chargeable. In some cases they need to be set free from the burden of a bad name ; in others, to be removed from the interference of unworthy relatives. Many applications are received that could be supplied from another county if the facts were known. We can thus be of mutual service and can profit by each other's experiences. We have not yet learned how to work together to the best advantage, but we are learning. I would urge also, the necessity of knowing exactly what becomes of every child which is given into our care. We can never judge of the efficiency of any method of dealing with children except as we know the actual results when these children have become young men and women.

It is the solemn duty of every society or institution who undertakes to care for children to know exactly what position in life each child fills when it passes from their care. A good authority on such matters remarked recently that there is no subject on which good people lie so persistently as concerning the results of various forms of charitable and benevolent work.

It is not always easy to know what our results are, but there is no excuse for making vague guesses or estimates. It is a large part of our business to know just what we are doing. Let us take up our work courageously and hopefully, learning new lessons from every year's experience. Always careful not to make idols of our methods or machinery, never frightened by being charged with doing so.

Mrs. W. P. Price read the following paper :—

The work of the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania has on certain lines steadily progressed during the year that has passed since the last Convention of the Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania.

Four (4) new counties have become auxilliary to the Western Board, and one county auxilliary has been organized, so that now we report twenty-two (22) counties and four (4) county auxilliaries, making a total of twenty-six (26) societies auxilliary to the Western Board.

When needful, these societies have been visited by members of the organizing committee. The visits that have been made to counties for this purpose, also for transfer of children and kindred matters, numbers thirty-three, (33.)

In some cases, for transferring children, the same counties have been visited two or three times. The general work of the society is gradually becoming systematized, and the reports from the societies

are becoming more specific and exact. There have been received under the care of the General Society during the year, 412, including 2 received from Morganza at headquarters in Pittsburgh, and 1 received from the Soldiers' Orphan Commission. The last named being physically unfit to be placed in a Home is being boarded in a pleasant country home. It is but just to add that the expenses of this child are borne by the Soldiers' Orphan Commission of Pennsylvania. One of the two from Morganza, who has been removed from there on account of his tender age, has been placed at a good school. The second one from there, who came out on her merits, is now on wages in a good home, where she is giving entire satisfaction. 412 children have been placed in homes; 50 have been returned to friends; 12 have died, and 6 have been placed in institutions—4 of the number at Elwyn, (the cases of others to be placed there is under consideration); 1 is at the Institution for Deaf Mutes, and 1 at the Pittsburgh Institution for the Blind; 250 children have been placed in permanent homes; 94 are still in our care.

Quite a number of children have received hospital treatment during the year, free of charge to counties from whence they came.

The Executive Committee of the Board hold their monthly meetings the first Monday of each month. The quarterly meetings of the Board are held on the first Thursday of June, September, December and March. In June the Board meets and closes up the work of the year. The annual meeting of the Board is held in June. This meeting consists of the officers of the society, Board of Directors, (20 in number) Presidents of auxilliary societies, and delegates from auxilliary societies, 1 for every 10 paying members. At this meeting yearly reports are read from the Secretary and Treasurer of the General society, and from all the counties. One hundred ladies were present at our last annual meeting. The Board of Directors are chosen from the different county societies under care of the General Society.

With our growth in numbers, our work steadily increases; and the good work of training helpless and dependent children by the C. A. S. plan to become useful men and women is finding a fixed abiding place in all the counties under our care.



Mrs. Brunner presented and read the following report of the Children's Aid Society of Blair County.

*To the President and members of the Convention of Poor Directors of the State of Pennsylvania.*

The Children's Aid Society of Blair County at its annual meeting in January last found that its work had assumed such proportions as to make it advisable to open a public office and secure the services of an agent whose whole time might be given to the accomplishment of its aims. The work of preparation required some time and it was not until February 18th, that every thing was ready and work begun in earnest. The report of what has been accomplished from that time to date is as follows:—

Eight children have been placed in free homes; one returned to her mother; one has died; one placed in boarding home; two mothers with children placed at service. Have made fifty-six visits of investigation; fifteen visits to children placed. Have received and investigated twenty-two applications for children; nine of these being for girls from 12 to 14 years, showing that there is a thought on the part of some persons that this is an opportunity to secure cheap service; a fact, we feel, that ought not to be encouraged.

We feel the possibilities of the work in Blair County are very great, but like every thing else will require time to establish the society and convince the people of the necessity of its support. Our Poor Board has been especially kind to us and I believe they will soon see their pecuniary assistance has been a good investment.

Let me speak briefly of some of the work done by the Blair County society.

A case of an infant, placed in free home, was taken ill. General Agent was sent for to remove it. Finding this necessary, the General Agent took the child to her home, nursed it day and night until its death. It was buried from home of General Agent by the society. Another case of a girl of eleven, having been put in trial home was returned on account of having *scabies*. General Agent was at the time caring for one child for the society. There being no alternative, she was compelled to take this girl into her own home and care for her. This she did for four weeks, when she was returned to her mother.



Mrs. Wilkinson presented the following report from Chester County:

REPORT OF CHESTER COUNTY CHILDREN'S AID  
SOCIETY TO THE ASSOCIATION OF THE  
DIRECTORS OF THE POOR.

Since the commencement of our work in 1884, the Directors of the Poor have placed under the control of the Aid Society 132 children ; 33 have passed from our care—of these, 8 have been returned to parents, 5 have died, 9 placed in institutions for special treatment, 7 absconded, and 5 arrived at maturity. The number at present under our supervision is 101 ; of whom 30 are in temporary homes, 35 in homes on trial, and 36 indentured. In the supplementary department of our society 55 are at present under our care. This we consider a very important part of our work, for by helping persons to help themselves we not only do a kindly act but prevent their drifting into pauperism. It is always desirable to encourage persons to be self-supporting, not by words alone, but by a helping hand in the hour of need. As the balance-wheel is to machinery, so may our help tide the needy one beyond the wavering point.

Having felt the necessity for a better recognition of our authority, and an opportunity to broaden the scope of our work, within the last year we applied for and obtained a charter. This, of course, does not change our standing in connection with the county wards, or our acknowledged agency with our Directors, from whom we have had cordial support, and their counsels have been sustaining and encouraging, when necessity for advice was needed. Their kindness, and that of the superintendent and matron of the Home, is appreciated by those who have been called to meet them in pursuance of our work.

Home life for each individual child is being better understood and valued as more desirable than in an institution, and calculated to develop the better part of the child's nature, particularly when fortunate enough to come under the care of those who recognize the right of the child to something above mere machine service, and are just, before claiming to be generous. To such as these our thanks are due, for sometimes it is almost a source of surprise as well as satisfaction to know how many homes are opened to these unfortunate ones, and no doubt but in the future, by such care as has been extended, these will cheer and brighten some home with their innocent faces ; and we confidently hope a good proportion will develop into useful men and women.

The very little one would seem to be most likely to continue to be homeless; we do not find it so. It is a source of gratification to know of the motherly care extended to them for the sum allowed for their support, and satisfying us that kind hearts are ready to aid us. We hope the time is not far distant when the responsibility of illegitimate children will rest more upon the parents and less on the county.

One of our difficulties is our inability to prevent the parents from taking their children, claiming as they do, to be able to support them. When the homes they are returned to are "poor but honest," it is not so sad, but too often the surroundings of the child are far from desirable.

Another source of trouble is the idea advanced by some, that they can do better by teaching the child at home, instead of attending school as we must presume the law contemplates; and the thought will arise, are these waifs so very different from other children that this isolation is necessary.

Though we meet with difficulties, the cheering aspect outweighs the discouraging features, and we are encouraged to feel our labors are not all in vain, but that in the good time coming the fruition of this labor will be apparent; this work of love for distressed humanity will go on, and others will rise up to take the places of those now engaged whose hands will ere long be folded, while the need that gave rise for this work will still continue. It is not often that a good cause is allowed to die, and we feel the assurance

Though in the conflict face to face,  
Thou fallest, before the day be won,  
Some heart inspired, shall fill thy place,  
The ranks close up, the work goes on.

Mrs. Willard presented and read the following report of Indiana County :

During the year our work has increased considerable. We have now under our care 29 children ; 23 of these are in private homes, 4 are left in care of their mothers, the society contributing in part to their support, and 2 being boarded until suitable homes can be procured. One child has been received by us from Elk County Society; one has been transferred by us to the Clarion Society, and one to the State Board who sent it to Mercer county. We have made 50 visits, 5 by a physician.

S. ST CLAIR, Secy.

Mrs. Bishop presented and read the following report of Jefferson County.

We have been working in the interest of the Children's Aid Society for two years, and as the aims and methods of our work are better understood in the community, there is a greater interest taken in our work.

We have had five applications for children, this year, and in most of these good homes were offered.

The society has looked after 17 children within the past year; the most of these we had to provide with clothing. Our chief work has been in visiting poor widows with from five to eight children, good Christian women that are very reluctant to part with any of them, but ready to take care of their children if we will but aid them to get a good start. We manage to do so by distributing clothing among them and sending them provisions; we try as much as possible to procure work for the mother if she is able to work.

My experience in most cases has been, that they want no assistance from Overseers of the Poor if they possibly can manage without. We have no county almshouse.

Mrs. Alston read the following report for Allegheny County:

REPORT FROM ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

Number of children in care during the year, 173. Fifty-seven of these were new cases and were received from the following sources: From parents and guardians, 25; from friends, 3; from Allegheny County Poor Board, 22; Department of Charities, Allegheny City, 4; from Humane Society, 1; from the Home of the Friendless, 2.

There have passed from our care during the year, 64; leaving in care at date, 109; 93 of whom are in free homes, 12 in boarding homes, and 4 institutions.

Our treasurer, Mrs. J. T. McCance, reports that during the year we received from different sources \$2,667.75, and disbursed \$2,515.23.

Mrs. Richards submitted and read the following report from Venango County.

REPORT OF VENANGO COUNTY.

Total number under care.....	47
Number of children under our care during the last year.....	11
Received from Washington county.....	3

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Received from Clarion county.....	2
Placed in homes.....	9
Adopted.....	1
Still in boarding home.....	1
Removed to new homes in county.....	4
Removed to homes in other counties.....	4
Letters and postals written.....	326
Letters and postals received.....	236

We have, during the year, clothed a number of poor children. We sent one poor woman to the West Penn Hospital where she was pronounced incurable and we at once removed her to her home.

*Mrs. Schwartz*, (Gettysburg): I haven't any written report here, but I will say this: We have been quite well satisfied generally with the places where our children are placed. We have felt that it was our duty to look after other children who needed care, as well as those who have been placed on the county. We always feel that our work should not stop there, so we have given considerable attention to other children. There is one class of children that always perplexes me; it is that class that depend on begging, and whose parents depend on begging for their living. To me it seems a very sad thing that a child should grow up taught to be a beggar, and I think there should be influences brought to bear upon that class of children that would do much for them. I believe that it is better to teach them to work. As long as we give them aid without teaching them to work, just so long we will have them for inmates in our almshouses.

*President Snyder*: The Convention would be pleased to hear from Mr. Lawrence, Superintendent of Blockley Almshouse.

*Mr. Lawrence*, (Blockley Almshouse): Mr. President—I came here to-night expecting to hear Dr. Kerlin, but after all, I haven't been so much disappointed after hearing the reports of these ladies. But I did not come to make any address. This is my first visit to these conventions and I have been very much surprised to hear the reports and the remarks that have been made here. I remember, as a boy, reading that "a fly on a steeple had a vision extending over a radius of about six feet, and what that fly saw within that radius was the fly's world." And so it is with us. What we



see around us we imagine is the world ; but the experience of the Poor Directors of the several counties, with their almshouses containing from 100 to 300 people, is entirely different from the experiences of those engaged in similar work in the cities of the larger class. I listened with great interest to day, to the gentleman in his remarks about making the almshouse a home ; making it pleasant, and putting pictures on the walls, etc ; making it so as to induce people to come. Why, we have 3,000 in Philadelphia that require no inducements whatever. [Laughter.] I listened to the gentleman who spoke of the visits to Europe, and the little attention paid to the poor there. I can corroborate what he said. I have seen families in Europe sitting around a box for a table, not a plate, cup or saucer, knife or spoon, nothing but a loaf of bread and a tin pail, break off a piece of bread, take a mouthful and a sup. But those are the people who, in many cases, by this means get money enough to come to this country, and then if we gave them the same kind of food or increased the ratio 500 per cent., or, in other words, if we gave them five times as good as they receive in their own home, we would be accused of cruelty in this country.

There must be a line drawn between the deserving and the undeserving poor. I represent an institution where we now have 2,954 inmates ; we have an average number of over 3,000, and we have had all told there about 3,300 people. I have a rule that when they have been there more than twice or when they come suffering from any disease caused by indiscretion or vicious habits, their admission card will be a colored card, to attract attention. It is interesting to look over some of them, and when I say that John Donahue or Maggie O'Brien has been in the institution 33 times, you will be perfectly satisfied that you won't require any pictures on the wall to induce them to come again.

There is no one with a more sympathetic heart than I. This is the first time I ever addressed a Convention composed largely of ladies, and took the exact ground I take to-night. I think the last time I addressed ladies was on the subject of having females appointed matrons in the station houses of Philadelphia. As the President of the Common Councils there for a number of years, I always took the ground I have expressed to-day, about "God's

poor," and our duty to them. I have always insisted upon large appropriations for that class of people, because like the fly, my vision only extended to a certain limit, and I felt that everybody of that class belonged to those who were brought down to poverty by no fault of their own. The gentlemen from the counties in the interior of the State I take it have not the class to deal with that we have in the large cities, especially in the seaport cities. Probably they have known their inmates all their lives, and they can sympathize with them, but I fear very much that if they were placed in exactly the same position that I am, they would take a different view of these matters, and would change their mind and find that it was sometimes much harder to be just than to be generous. It is very easy and very pleasant to be generous, but it is one of the nicest questions in the world to dole out charity in a proper manner, and when we consider that by doling it out too freely we increase pauperism and make admissions into these institutions too easy, then we should be very particular in this matter. There is a class who are never known to work if they can help it, and even if they are compelled to work to tide over the day, they have almost asked God to forgive them for it. I can remember back thirty or forty years ago, and I can remember that the people in the almshouse were an entirely different class from what they are now. We met them then principally our own people. We meet them to-day principally the scum of Europe, thrown upon us and we must meet the circumstances as they exist. We must not consider them in the same category as those we dealt with years ago. Go to any of the public institutions to-day, and you will find that what I tell you is nearly the truth, if not the exact truth. Since I have been connected officially with our institution I have stopped in a large measure the admission of that class of people that has seemed to bother the people up in this end of the State. I heard the gentleman ask what would be done with an able-bodied man who had but one organ well developed, and that his stomach, if he came and lived a while in the institution and came and went at his pleasure. We have a law that provides for a House of Correction, that is built and supported for the retention of disorderly street walkers, vagrants and habitual drunkards. I have stopped people being sent there simply because they were drunk. We have 1,000 people in our hospital,

and over 900 in the insane department, and I thought it was not the intention of the law, and that it was unjust to those who were fit to be there. to have a man or woman roaring drunk brought into a room and strapped down on a bed to prevent violence, on the verge of delirium tremens. But people who haven't had experience, will look upon that class of people as "God's poor." I take great pleasure in handling that class of people by sending them to the House of Correction. They are not as frequent in their visits as they were at one time. They are that class of people who visit the parks during the balmy days of summer and refresh themselves from the baskets of people who are spending their time there, and in the evening, when the dews of heaven fall upon them, call at the almshouse for lodging until morning. That class do not come as frequently as they did, because I give them an early breakfast and send them to the House of Correction for three months. It is a great pity that in all portions of the State such measures can not be taken. Those are the people who are an injury to the deserving poor. A man or woman brought into constant contact with such people must have a strong mind or he will become biased against some who are deserving. At our institution we have an out-door visitor for the children who pays as much attention to them, has as much sympathy for them and as kindly a feeling for them as though he were their father or grandfather.

There is a class of people who should and do demand our sympathy, and that is the insane. Admitting that a great many of those cases are brought on by vicious habits or indiscretion, yet they are human beings. In Philadelphia we have more than 900 of that class at Blockley Almshouse. We have been building additions to the insane department. Two of the finest buildings in the country with all modern improvements in the way of ventilation, etc., with plenty of bath tubs—and that is one of the things that struck me with great surprise to-day when I heard a gentleman from the upper part of the State speak of the necessity of having bath tubs—why, we have bath tubs all over the place, but there is a certain class of people that it is as hard to get them to take a bath as it is to get them to take a dose of castor oil, but it is an absolute necessity. If they were not compelled to do it the institution would not remain where it is. The "deserving



poor" spoken of by some are brought there in patrol wagons, and we put them into a bath tub and put clean clothes on them to make them presentable, and they are the class that if you visited the institution the next day would complain because they hadn't a feather bed and a mattress. We would be glad to have any of you ladies and gentlemen visit Blockley and I would be glad to show you that the people of Philadelphia have a great deal of sympathy for them, for we are now spending about a quarter of a million dollars for these additional buildings, to what was before considered one of the largest institutions in the country. Our children are in buildings outside of the walls of the institution. Mr. Milliken has the care of them, as it takes about all my time to watch and take care of the 3,200, more or less, inside. So that if the ladies desire information as to the children they will get it of Mr. Milliken. [Applause.]

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* I would like to know what the people in the country places would do with such characters as you send to the House of Correction.

*Mr. Lawrence:* Send them to Philadelphia. You find it to be cheaper to pay railroad fare than to provide for them. We get them from all the counties of the State, there.

*President Snyder:* We would be pleased to hear from Mr. Milliken, of Blockley Almshouse.

*Mr. Lawrence:* He is the father of the fatherless.

*Mr. Milliken:* Captain Lawrence is unfair to himself. I will now read you a few figures to show you what we are doing.

1890.

Placed out at boarding during the year.....	100 children
Placed at training schools for feeble-minded children, Elwyn.....	92 "
Children visited at boarding homes during year.....	358

Children treated at Philadelphia Hospital during 1890:

In maternity department.....	164
In children's asylum.....	115



1891.

Number of children at boarding at present date.....	53
At training school, Elwyn.....	104
Number of children at present in hospital.....	57

The new system we adopted two years ago, of placing children out upon agreement instead of indenture, works very well. Contracts can be more readily made and we can remove a child if the home is unsatisfactory, without any trouble, and on the other hand the family can return them to us without any trouble, or any questions asked. It especially works well when the child arrives at thirteen or fourteen years of age to place it in a home where it earns some wages. This is especially true of growing girls. There is a great demand for girls who can do some work in homes, and we have twenty or thirty applications for each one of that class that we can supply. We have adopted the system of arranging the amount that is to be paid, after the girl has remained perhaps a month, and a portion of the money is put aside to purchase her own clothing, but we always insist that enough shall be given to leave a surplus, with which we open a Savings Bank account, in the name of the child. We had a case a while ago where there was \$63 to the credit of the girl, where under the old system she would have had nothing until she arrived at the age of eighteen, or more. The old indenture didn't provide for wages. By the new system it is better for the children, in that they are self-supporting. I don't know of anything more that I can say that will be of interest, and as the hour is late I will close.

*Rev. R. C. Wolf* (Washington County): As the time is now come to adjourn I will take the occasion of voicing the sentiments of the gentlemen who have not gone home and our approval of the work that the ladies have been engaged in. I have listened to the number of children that have been cared for, etc., as indicated in these reports, and I hope that we may keep in mind the remarks of my young friend on the left not to be discouraged or cast down in this good work. If they do not always seem to be succeeding as well as they would like to, still they are doing God's work, and God will smile on them in the future,

as in the past. I suppose that the Directors can fully appreciate the help that the ladies are to them, and I have no doubt that they will receive the thanks of the Directors who are present. It has been suggested that we ought to express in some way our appreciation of the great help that they have been in this great work.

Upon motion of Mr. Brumbaugh the Convention adjourned until nine o'clock to-morrow.

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### PROCEEDINGS OF OCTOBER 14TH, 1891.

The Convention was called to order at nine o'clock by President Snyder.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. E. S. Brownmiller, Chaplain of the Berks County Almshouse.

President Snyder read the reports of the several committees, as follows :

#### ON PLACE OF MEETING.

Your Committee on Place of Meeting for next year beg leave to report that they recommend that this Convention adjourn to meet in Erie at a time to be agreed upon by the executive officers of the Convention.

#### ON OFFICERS.

The Committee on Officers report : For President, L. C. Colborn, of Somerset ; Vice-Presidents, John R. Jones, of Lackawanna ; Henry Dunn, of Erie ; Geo. M. Shallcross, of Philadelphia ; E. H. Hershey, of Lancaster ; Mrs. Belle K. Richards, of Venango ; Recording Secretary, Wm. P. Hunker, of Allegheny ; Corresponding Secretary, Robert D. McGonnigle, of Allegheny ; Treasurer, John S. Hope of Chester.

#### ON PROGRAMME.

R. D. McGonnigle, of Allegheny ; Charles Lawrence, of Philadelphia ; W. T. Shepard, of Schuylkill ; Mrs. Belle K. Richards, of Venango, and Mrs. Lydia B. Walton, of Chester.

*The President:* Col. E. P. Gould of Erie will present a paper on "The Work of the Poor Law Commission."

*Col. Gould:* I will say that the hasty and imperfect manner in which this paper was prepared is due to my friend Mr. McGonnigle. The first I knew I was to say anything on this subject was when the programme reached me last week. Mr. McGonnigle thinks that everyone can work in the same rapid rate that he does.

### THE WORK OF THE POOR LAW COMMISSION.

The necessity of a uniform system of supporting the poor and dependent, and the distribution of the poor funds arising from taxation, has for a long time been a subject which has engrossed the attention of those to whom was entrusted by law the care and support of the poor in the various districts of the Commonwealth. For years this has been a topic of earnest discussion in the Conventions of the Directors of the Poor; and it was considered so necessary and important that the Convention of 1888 instructed its legislative committee to secure, if possible, the passage of an act of the General Assembly, authorizing the appointment of a Commission to revise and codify the Poor Laws of the State. That committee faithfully and successfully performed the duties assigned it. The influence of Governor Beaver was enlisted in the project; but I think I am not claiming too much, when I assert that almost wholly through the influence of the members of this Association, collectively and individually, the Act of Assembly, approved May 9th, 1889, was passed, which authorized the Governor to appoint a Commission to revise and codify the Poor Laws of the State.

Thus far what had been done, was directly the work of this Association. To it belongs the credit of the passage of that Act. It was our own creation, and we must not and cannot disown and repudiate it. Pursuant to the power given him by the Act of Assembly before mentioned, the Governor appointed a Commission of seven gentlemen of the Commonwealth, which was commonly known as the "Poor Law Commission," whose duty it was to perform the labors imposed by said Act of Assembly.

In the selection of that Commission the Governor displayed exceedingly good judgment and wise discrimination—selecting that diversified talent and ability which the subject required. The Chairman, Hon. Lewis Puzler, familiar with legislation and the framing of laws,



and interested in public charities, had a reputation throughout the State as being a man largely gifted with good sense, broad information and sound judgment. His appointment at once inspired confidence that the work would be well done. It is detracting from no one when I say that there was not another man in the State who was so familiar with the various and diversified systems of the administration of the Poor Laws of the Commonwealth, and the good and bad effects of the practical workings of the many methods in vogue, as Robert D. McGonnigle. So thorough was his information, that he could from memory furnish the Commission much of the statistics required in the prosecution of their work, and his judgment and advice was valuable and needed in the work to be performed.

William N. Appel was another wise appointment. His quick perception, practical common sense, clear, terse statements, analytical mind and zeal in the work, added much strength to the Commission.

But for persistent laborious work in the study of the inception, growth, and development of the distribution of public charity in this country and England, and the various laws which have been enacted relating thereto, and the causes which influenced them, and the collecting and compiling of the good and bad features of the many methods which obtained at various times, performed by J. Nevin Hill, whose recent death we deplore as a public calamity, show how earnestly he was enlisted in the work, how conscientiously he labored, how self-sacrificingly he performed the duties he undertook. No man in the State, I do not hesitate to assert, could have performed the task he undertook any better than he did it. Few men were so rarely gifted for that kind of work, and his selection was a fortunate one. To him the most laborious and difficult part was assigned; to him belongs the credit of having done it well. The other members of the Commission, were each well qualified for the position. They rounded out the qualities needed and rendered much valuable assistance in the work performed.

The labors of the Commissioners were not restricted to the narrow limits of revising and codifying the laws, as their duties were expressed in the Act creating the Commission. They left no available channel of information unexplored. They familiarized themselves with the history and growth of the distribution of public charity, as well as the causes which produce pauperism. They investigated all of the systems which exist in the State for caring for the poor and dependent, and were able to point out the good and evil features of each method. No work seemed too arduous, if it would result in giv-



ing them a broader and better understanding of the subject they were pursuing, or enable them better to perform their duties, or more intelligently present their conclusions to the public. In their several reports, both general and special, much of the valuable information obtained by them is systematized, classified and historically and methodically set forth. They met every question boldly, and on disputed points took decided stand as their convictions led them. They have left us a legacy of information, so arranged as to be of untold value, which will be the basis of future efforts to improve and perfect the Poor Laws of the State, and the distribution of public charity in this Commonwealth.

As the result or conclusion of their labors they prepared and submitted for the consideration of the last Legislature an Act of Assembly the object of which was, if enacted, to place upon our statute books a law, under the provisions of which the poor and dependent of every district in the State, *could be*, not would be, supported and cared for.

Every one who is at all conversant with the various systems which prevail, and the multiplicity of laws which govern them, and who has carefully studied the act proposed by the Commission, cannot but realize how broad and comprehensive a view the members took of the work assigned them and how thoroughly and understandingly they performed it. It was not to be expected that all who are interested in this great question should agree with all the conclusions reached by the Commission; and there is much diversity of opinion as to the wisdom of some of the proposed changes which the Commission recommended. But however much we may disagree with them as to some provisions of the Act proposed, we can, and we ought to give them credit for an honest and earnest endeavor to do the very best they could, and to extend to them the thanks of this Convention for the good work performed. They aimed at perfection, and in the proposed Act of Assembly, they tried to realize it. In all things we do not agree with them. In our narrow view, we may not be able to see the right as they do; and it is possible that, viewing the subject theoretically, they may have failed to comprehend the practical difficulties which we see.

In only two *important* features do I take issue with them. First, I think too much power was given in the Act to the Poor Law Commission, and the judgment, discretion and independence given the Director too much restricted; and, secondly; I am not prepared to go as far as they do in abolishing out-door relief. I give them credit for honesty of purpose, thoroughly believing that their views, if car

ried out, would result in the greatest good ; and I believe that the Commissioners are equally generous with us who differ with them, in crediting us with equal sincerity and unselfishness.

The all important object to be attained is to have placed upon our statute books a general law regulating and controlling the management of the poor, under which, in time, every district, by the repeal of its local laws, will voluntarily come. We should not quibble over unimportant features or oppose any change, until the Act proposed is in our opinion in all respects, faultless ; but rather let us try to find some common ground upon which we can, by mutual concessions, all stand, and then by united effort try to lay the foundation upon which can be built a uniform system throughout the Commonwealth of caring for and supporting the dependent poor.

It is a grand thing when a man's mind and heart reach out to some ennobling work beyond his personal interests. It matters not whether it be activity in matters of public philanthropy ; the study of social reform ; the uplifting, or betterment of the condition of the needy or unfortunate ; or interest in religious thought and movement. The enlistment of the mind in such questions, make broader men and better citizens.

Let us then in considering the work and conclusions of the " Poor Law Commission " divest our minds of every selfish and personal interest and consideration and seek only to reach the best attainable end.

*Mr. McGonnigle :* I don't feel that it becomes me to say much about the work of the Poor Law Commission, but after listening to Mr. Gould's very excellent paper I feel that I should say something. The Commission labored under some disadvantages. In the first place, the Act was passed in May, 1889, authorizing the appointment of the Commission, and the Commissioners were not appointed until the 15th of October, 1889, and we didn't get really organized for business until about January, 1890 on account of certain details that had to be arranged for ; our report had to be ready by November, 1890, so we had but nine or ten months to do the work. It was decided that when the Commission presented their report to the Governor that their work was done, and the Commission adjourned *sine die* under this ruling.

Those familiar with legislation know that the work only begins when the bill is offered. It has to be followed through every step,

all objections raised have to be answered, and every amendment proposed has to be considered ; but we were deprived of the privilege of making any changes or listening to any suggestions for the reasons just stated. The idea of a majority of the Commission was that that the bill would meet with objections. All legislation of that character does. It would be unreasonable to suppose it would not ; the objections would have to be met from time to time and eventually the Act would get into shape ; but all this was prevented in this case. If you take the history of all legislation on this subject you will find that it was "thrashed over" two or three times before it finally became a law. Our Children's law was first proposed in 1876 and became a law in 1883 ; and the Insane Act was possibly ten years in getting worked out ; for the "Hospital for the maintenance of" the "chronic insane," was 17 years in its passage ; so when the question is asked "why didn't it pass?" the answer is—there was no one authorized to speak for the Commission at Harrisburg, or to look after it through all its movements. I make this statement so you may understand something about the trouble that the Commission had towards the last. It seems to me that the work of this Commission should be taken up ; that is, the bill that they prepared should be taken charge of by a committee of this Association and by them amended and changed as they see fit and presented to this Association at its next meeting, and then it might stand a fair chance of passing at the next session of the Legislature, or possibly at the one succeeding. The only way is to keep it alive and finally getting in such shape as will meet with the approval of this Association, what seems right all around. And, I would like to have this Association appoint a committee of five to seven—a majority of them should be lawyers—to take charge of this matter, and report at the next meeting.

*The President:* I cannot agree to have them all lawyers. I think you will find that there are others as well calculated to procure legislation as lawyers.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* The revision of the Poor Law, at first glance, seems a simple matter, but when we consider the difficulties, from a lawyer's standpoint, a layman, no matter how practi-



cal he is, will find certain questions and conditions that will arise that he cannot answer. It requires a lawyer with a legal mind to explain the difficulties. You cannot realize the confusion in the Poor Laws of the State to-day. When the Commission got to work there was such a confusion that it was hard to get at a starting point. For this reason I think a majority should be lawyers.

*Mr. Shepard*, (of Schuylkill): I heartily endorse the sentiments of *Mr. McGonnigle*. I think it is very important to have the committee composed of men who can properly interpret the report. We know very well it is difficult to get legislation in proper shape so it will meet with the approbation of the Courts and be sustained. I know in our county (being a solicitor for many years) we have had some difficult questions arising from the construction of local Acts. I think the committee should be very carefully selected. I do feel that a majority of the committee ought to be men who are able to determine, after a bill is framed, whether it accords with the conditions of law.

*Mr. Rieser* (of Berks): I heard *Mr. McGonnigle* say there was a tabulated statement of the Poor Laws. I would ask if there is such a statement in possession of this Association? If there is it would be well to see it.

*Mr. McGonnigle*: When we first met our idea was that we would have every law relating to the Poor Law tabulated and arranged in such form that we might have access to it. But after employing two or three clerks for some time, we discovered that there were hundreds of laws and that the mass would be so great when it was done that we would know little more about it than when we began, and so we abandoned the whole thing, and had a summary made of the various laws. I used to think a codification of the laws would be a very valuable thing, but there is such a confusion, and so many questions of whether laws are in force or not that it would be an embarrassing matter.

*A Member*: It seems to me this would be remedied by the appointment of a committee to lay their plans before the Association at the next meeting. There may be some corrections and



suggestions to be made. There is no one here but who has some influence with his Representative, and by seeing them before they go to Harrisburg and explaining it to them would be the way to secure this law. If the committee try to do all the work they will find it up-hill work. Let this committee make a report next year and let this Association at that time amend, or adopt it as they see fit.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* I agree exactly with this gentleman. Let the committee furnish a report here and then let the Convention amend or adopt it as they see fit. Let it then go before the different members of the Legislature and Senate by the individual members of this Association. I might say this: The State of Pennsylvania has been fortunate in getting as far as we have in the way a revision of the Poor Laws. I think the Poor Laws of New York are more confused than ours. Some years ago the Superintendents of the Poor of New York proposed to have a codification of the laws and they endeavored to have the Legislature authorize the Governor to appoint a Commission, the expense of which would be met by the Association of the Directors of the Poor, and they failed after repeated efforts.

*The President:* It would be a good thing to have this report submitted to each of the members of this Association before they come to this Convention next year. If it is brought before the Convention without that we wouldn't know what to do about it.

*Col. Gould, (Erie):* I would suggest that that committee be authorized when they have completed the work, to print the bill, as proposed, at the expense of this Association and send it beforehand to all the Directors of the State, so that they may consider it before they come to the Convention. There would be men in the Convention who would understand the effect of the changes and could explain their effect.

There are some things I don't think the Directors have realized. There are some 1300 to 1500 different Poor Laws in Pennsylvania. There are 21 Counties in the State managed under the Overseer system, and in some of those counties each different township is

governed by a different law, by an Act regulating the care of the poor in that particular township, and the law in one township entirely different from that of another.

There is another thing, and that is that we should get rid of the personal interest in this matter. The worst thing to meet is that in every place there is a man drawing a little pay, who is in office, and if this bill passes he may lose his place, and you will find such men going to their representative to oppose such change. There are nine counties in the State where the County Commissioners are the Poor Directors, and by reason of that they get additional pay ; I found last year that in some places they were fighting this law, because it would take away so much salary from them. Now we want to rise a little higher than that. I am the Attorney for the Poor Directors of Erie County. If the Poor Laws in the state can be improved and amended, if it legislates me out of that office I am for the bill ; if it takes out of office every Poor Director but at the same time improves the Poor Laws we should say "God speed the movement." (Applause.)

*Rev. Wolf, (Washington):* However wise the lawyers may be it must be kept in mind that the laymen, who have been practically operating these laws, know many things. The manner that the president has suggested I approve of, that some two months before we come to the Convention the law as proposed be printed and a copy sent to each. Then any suggestions may be offered that are desirable, and it can come here so changed that it will meet the principal objections that may be made to it on the floor of the Convention.

We don't come here to listen to speeches, but to attend to business and we want to transact the greatest amount of work that we can in the short time. If you come here with a new law about forty men here will make objections to it. You want it so fixed that very few objections will be offered, or so that those who have heard the objections a month or two before may be ready to answer them. Then we may come to some unanimous agreement on the matter, so that it may go before the Legislature and be put through.

*Mr. Colborn, (Somerset):* I listened with much interest to Col. Gould's excellent paper, and also to the various remarks. With many of them I agree, and with some I do not. Brother Gould and I had a discussion on this poor law before it was presented to the Legislature. I think the suggestion of the last gentleman is a wise one; that this committee do not wait until the next meeting, but get their report as nearly correct as they can, and submit it by printed copies over the State and invite criticism, then let the committee meet again, after the criticisms have been received and look them over and from this they ought to be able to select a good law, which would suit the people of Pennsylvania.

Now unless you get a law that will be better than the local laws, those counties having local laws will not adopt it. I had but few objections to the law as presented by the Commission; one of my objections was that it invested too much power in the Poor Law Commissioners.

But this committee, with all the information that has been gathered by the Poor Law Commission and all that has been said here and elsewhere on this question, it seems to me ought to be able to make up a law that we all could endorse and accept.

*Mr. Long, (Luzerne):* I have been a Director for ten years and I have heard discussions on this Poor Law all that time. What does it amount to? Our poor people in Pennsylvania are taken care of and I am satisfied, but there is one point that we have all neglected, and that is the insane department. I have never seen a report of how many we have in the State. We hear of all the other particulars, but not this. How many are in the townships and how are they treated? Here is a poor man or woman, and the overseers hide them away, and give A. or B. so much a week to take care of them. Do you take that man for a charitable person? He does it for the money that is in it. How can that man or woman be restored, under those conditions? They never can. I say our duty is to petition for asylums for all the insane, and that every insane person should be placed in an asylum, and if there is but one out of a hundred restored

we have done something. I knew an instance where a poor colored woman had been sent to another colored woman to be taken care of, and she was blind and no doctor had been consulted, and when an eye doctor was consulted her sight was restored within six months and it is now as good as mine. And there she had sat for a whole year, totally blind. We discuss the laws, but not as we ought. It is every Director's duty when he has an insane person to place them in an asylum, and that when he has a sick person he should get a physician, and a penalty should be placed upon every Director who fails to do it. We have a rich State, but these things are neglected. Up in the northern portion of the State we have seven counties with no asylum, and they are large counties. We have to transport too long distances, and I say let the State build asylums and place these persons in them. Let us pass laws to that effect.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Mr. Long has reference to the counties where they have the Overseer system, rather than the Almshouse system. If in Monroe County, which has no almshouse or asylum, a person becomes a charge on the township the Overseers of the Poor, immediately find a place for such person to board; unless they are violent and cannot be kept there. The system in Monroe and Union counties is a disgrace to the State. I say that carefully and advisedly; and in all the counties where they have the Overseer system it is a disgrace to the State. I will read you testimony of one man that we had before the Commission, Martin Yetter, Overseer in Smithfield township, Monroe County. He says: "Suppose I have a pauper in your house keeping at \$1.50 a week and this man says, I will keep him for \$1. Then, of course, it is my business to take him there. The way we find the best and cheapest place is to let everybody in the township know. We know everybody in the township. As soon as there is a pauper on our charge you would be surprised how soon it goes through the township. Every body knows it and comes to us and makes this offer, because they all have to pay for him and they want to keep him as cheap as possible. We have generally got to have them



"kept by the same kind of people they are. The money we pay them for boarding paupers is really a part of the master or mistress' revenue and not a matter of charity."

Now that is the condition in 24 counties of this State and it is a matter that few people in the State are aware of.

*Mr. Myer*, (York County), moved that a committee of seven be appointed on legislation, as suggested in the remarks on this subject.

*Mr. Brumbaugh*, (Blair Co.) There is something else to be taken into consideration before appointing such a committee. There is work for such a committee, as every one knows who has had any experience in that kind of work. And that kind of work will require some money. There must be some expense connected with this. This committee cannot do this without some provision to pay for their expenses. The work won't be well done without some provision of that kind. Now, the other Commission spent nearly a year upon this matter. One gentleman went to England and examined the poor systems there and in a number of States of the United States and it was a well gotten up bill. But it couldn't be done without expense, neither can this. We can get it by private contributions, or let each county interested in this raise some money. But we must provide for this in some manner.

*The President*: This seems to be an important matter and I would like to hear a general discussion on the whole subject.

*Mr. McGonnigle*: The Committee will have to meet two or three times before they can make up their report, at some one point. The traveling expenses will have to be provided for and the printing of the report, and if I understand it that is the only expense that will have to be provided for. These will have to be met, if we expect this committee to do anything.

*Mr. Crawford*, (of Blair): This will not amount to more than \$500, and an assessment of \$15 to \$20 on each county will certainly pay it.

I heard Mr. McGonnigle's remarks, wishing lawyers appointed on that committee, and of course they always want their expenses

provided for. They generally demand a fee, in advance, also. But that is all right. When you appoint men on this committee I wouldn't agree to have them all lawyers. As Mr. McGonnigle has said, there is such a complication of laws, we don't know where we will land, and who has made them. Very few go to the Legislature but lawyers. I say let us have some men of good common sense, not all lawyers. (Laughter.)

Lawyers may get us into further trouble, and we may not be able to understand this report. I think it is a good idea to have that report printed and sent to every Director of the Poor in the State and if there are any complicated questions that we don't understand then I suppose we will have to go to a lawyer to have it explained.

*Mr. Lawrence*, (of Blockley): It strikes me that this is the starting point of what this Convention was called together for. From my experience I find there is a great amount of laws, and a great many Directors who know nothing about them and from the remarks I have listened to it seems to me that you have been groping in the dark. There don't appear to be two townships or counties governed by the same law, and I think it would be well to present a sort of summary—but I understand this Commission went through all that and selected the better part of the different laws, so that the work is very much lessened, and if they present to the Directors a copy of their report on this matter it strikes me that from that considerable information can be gained by the members of this Association and they can look it over and make any suggestions they please, whether they are lawyers or "common sense" men. (Laughter.)

I don't think there would be much expense, certainly not in comparison to the good that would be done. When we hear it stated here by a gentleman who is so conversant with the matter as Mr. McGonnigle, that the Poor Laws of Monroe and Union counties are a disgrace to the State, if we do nothing else but to correct that evil I don't think any county would hesitate to contribute for that worthy object. When a gentleman gets up here and tells me that they put out their poor to the lowest bidder, the same as we buy coal, it strikes me it is not the proper thing. There ought to

be some better means than to send out a notice to every one in the town to know how much they will board and lodge some poor man for, who is bereft of reason. We people in Philadelphia cannot realize such a state of affairs in the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; and I say to you that if there is any hesitation on the part of any of the counties or townships to pay the expenses if you can abolish the Poor Law of any township that can be truthfully characterized as almost criminal, I will guarantee to raise the money in the city of Philadelphia alone, to pay the expense for it. I am more than surprised at what I have heard and I think this is the commencement of the work; find what is bad, and eliminate it, take what is good and improve upon it, and then we can go back home feeling we have done something more than coming here to tell stories.

*Mr. Cutshall*, (Crawford Co.): I can remember when our own township was governed under the old system of letting them out to the lowest bidder, and I will never forget the sight I saw when one of those paupers died. After he had been dead three or four days the people found it out and when we went to bury him he was nearly eaten up with rats. I am glad it is better there now. I think that a uniform system, as Mr. Gould suggests, would be the proper thing.

*The President*: Now in regard to these expenses, what shall we do? It has been moved and seconded that a committee of seven be appointed on legislation. The motion is agreed to.

*Mr. Brumbaugh*, (Blair Co.): I move that the Association pay the expense of this Commission to the amount of not more than \$500.

*Mr. Rieser*, (Berks Co.): I think this question a serious one—the question of expenses. It is not what the Directors of the Poor desire, but what power have we in this matter? How can we compel our counties to pay the assessment if levied by this Association?

*Mr. Colborn*, (Somerset Co.): Moved that the further consideration of this question be postponed until this afternoon, at the almshouse. Agreed to.

The Convention here adjourned to meet at the almshouse at 2 P. M.

Pursuant to adjournment the members of the Association met at the almshouse at 2 P. M. and, after being pleasantly entertained for a couple of hours and making a general inspection of the institution, met in the chapel at 4 P. M. After prayer by the Rev. W. J. Kershner, President Snyder said :

*President Snyder:* The question when we adjourned was the appointment of a Committee on Legislation, and it was moved and seconded that a committee of seven be appointed ; and then the question of the expense was raised. What is the pleasure of the Convention with regard to it ? The motion is agreed to.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* I think the appointment of that committee should be deferred as it is a matter of importance ; can it not be taken up by the Executive Committee and arranged for them to appoint the persons who seem to be the proper ones ? It will take some little correspondence and thought to arrange it properly and I think if it is left in the hands of the officers of the Association it would be better ; and I make that as a motion. Agreed to.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Now about the expenses of this Committee. You understand none of the committee are to be paid for their services, but for their traveling and printing expenses. There will have to be several meetings held, and it is for the Association to say whether that shall be paid by the various counties that the seven members come from, or by a special appropriation by the Association, or by private subscription.

*Cadwalader Biddle:* Why not leave it to the officers of the Association to arrange that ?

*Mr. Brumbaugh, (Blair Co.):* I had a motion pending when we adjourned that we raise a sum not exceeding \$500 by the Association to defray these expenses. I renew that motion. Agreed to.

*Mr. Gould, (Erie Co.):* It seems to me that doesn't solve the question at all. I have had a good deal of curiosity to know whether there is a single representative here from a township district.



*Mr. McGonnigle:* There is not.

*Mr. Gould:* The matter is, what system of assessment or subscription we are going to adopt. Now, of course, if the committee does this work the expenses ought to be paid; but how will we raise the money? Will all the districts where the Directors would like to do it, pass such a bill? We don't want it out of the individual pockets of the Directors of Public Charities.

*Mr. Biddle:* I think it should be referred to the officers. The Directors here are not in a condition to say how they can raise it. We have many stewards, without the Poor Directors, and in other cases there is but one Director here, and they can't say what the officers over them will agree to. If these gentlemen will write and ascertain whether their districts will be willing to meet this it can be done that way; if it is to be voluntary they will have to see how much will have to be subscribed. We cannot say that the districts that are not represented here will pay, or even some of them that are represented.

*Mr. Bowen, (Northumberland Co.):* I think it would be wise to know how many copies of this Act that has been referred to have been prepared or printed, and if a copy of this has been sent to every district. This might be a valuable book, perhaps as good as this committee would get up. I think that should be sent around and examined to see if there can be any amendments suggested. The men engaged on that Commission were men of ability, and they worked industriously in the matter. Another thing it would be well to consider would be to examine and see what was objected to by the Legislature. And here is another question; it is suggested that a majority of this committee be lawyers. It is stated also, that there are many laws in this State. Now who drew them up? It was men who called themselves lawyers. I don't think it advisable to have too many lawyers on the committee.

*Mr. Crawford, (Blair Co.):* The expenses of this Convention are now raised by an assessment upon each county. Let this committee go to work and keep an account of their expenses and hand it to the treasurer. If we find that we haven't sufficient money to meet the expense let there be an additional assessment made and let the

expense come through the Association. If our assessment in Blair is now \$20 it may be made \$30 to meet this. Let it come in like any other expense. It will then come through the Auditing Committee and be paid by the treasurer.

*Mr. Colborn*, ( Somerset Co.): I think the suggestion of Mr. Biddle a wise one. When it comes to settle the accounts of the Poor Directors and committee, the auditors will reject them and the Poor Directors will have to make up the deficiency. If it were left to the wise judgment of the Executive Committee to raise this money, they might send out a circular asking for contributions. Each individual will feel like giving something and they can take a small donation from the county. I think it best to leave it in the hands of the Executive Committee. I would move that the matter of raising this money be left in the hands of the Executive Committee. Agreed to.

*The President*: Mr. Biddle has to leave soon and he has a short letter to read, and he will read it now.

*Mr. Biddle*: I was asked if I was able to explain the operation of the immigration laws, at this session, by Mr. McGonnigle, and I told him I would do so. Our Board has been very busy lately in obedience to the commands of the Governor in making certain reports to him. I prepared a short paper upon immigration. I will read from the Act of Congress relating to immigration: "All idiots, insane persons, paupers or persons likely to become a public charge, persons suffering from a loathsome or a dangerous contagious disease, persons who have been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime, or a misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, polygamists, and also any person whose ticket or passage is paid for with the money of another, or who is assisted by others to come, unless it is affirmatively and satisfactorily shown on special inquiry that such person does not belong to one of the foregoing excluded classes." That is the part of the Act describing the classes that shall be excluded.

I presented a short paper to the Conference of Charities, a few weeks ago, which will be interesting here and I will read it.

The paper was as follows :

GENTLEMEN, MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DIRECTORS  
OF THE POOR OF PENNSYLVANIA:

I have consented, at the request of Mr. McGonnigle, to say a few words to you upon the subject of Immigration and to explain the laws now governing that subject, especially in those particulars wherein they differ from the laws existing prior to the present year.

Under the old law, which was passed in 1882, the Secretary of the Treasury was authorized to appoint, on the nomination of the Governors of the States in which there existed ports of entry, the State Boards of Charity to act as Commissioners of Immigration at said ports.

Under the authority thus given, the Governors of Massachusetts and Pennsylvania appointed the State Boards of Charity in those States, Commissioners of Immigration at the ports of Philadelphia and Boston.

Other acts extending the restriction of immigration to those who had, previous to their sailing, made contracts to labor in America, were subsequently passed by Congress.

Until the present year these Boards continued so to act to, I believe, the entire satisfaction of the general government, as evidenced in the correspondence which took place between the Federal authorities and themselves.

There was, however, a growing feeling throughout the country which led the last Congress to pass a supplemental Act further restricting immigration. By the terms of this Act all duties imposed and powers conferred under it were to be performed and exercised by inspection officers of the United States.

The Attorney-General advised the Treasury Department that under these provisions it could no longer avail itself of State Boards to act as commissioners of immigration, but that the department must appoint special individuals to discharge the duties therein demonstrated.

A change was therefore made and the State Board of Charities was relieved from further duty and Mr. John J. S. Rodgers appointed Commissioner of Immigration at the Port of Philadelphia.

The correspondence which took place between the Secretary of the Treasury and the Pennsylvania State Board at the time this change was made was highly gratifying to the State Board. It left

no room for doubt that the manner in which that Board had discharged its duties were entirely satisfactory and highly appreciated by the department at Washington.

It is a fact that during the nine years in which the Board acted as Commissioners of Immigration its decisions were never once overruled by the Treasury Department, but were in every case sustained and in several adopted for the guidance of the Commissioners at other ports.

The present Act differs from the previous Act in these particulars:

There can be no mistaking the popular feeling in the United States to-day upon the subject of immigration. That it should be restricted is universally felt, and the only difference of opinion is as to how far the restriction should be carried. Some (and they are not few in number) would have us henceforth exclude all immigrants, and extend the operation of the Act now limited to the Chinese, so as to include those of every nationality.

Such persons do not stop to consider how far this feeling is consistent with the pride that is taken in the fact that each succeeding census shows what enormous growth there has been in the population of our municipalities and other divisions of our State governments, or with the satisfaction we have when we compare with the previous record the increase in our national wealth; when we read of the added miles of railroads; the growth in the number of manufacturing establishments; the augmented value of the products both of the soil and of the industrial shops. Little is thought of the increase in the number of tons of wealth taken by the miners from the ground, or of the number of acres of soil opened to the cultivation of the farmer. No consideration is given to the fact, that, in order to accomplish such results, we required the labor of all of the immigrants admitted to our country during the past decade, and that if we are to continue to increase in prosperity and wealth as a nation in the future as we have done in the past, we shall need just such assistance to enable the surplus accumulations to be reinvested, and again become a part of our substantial growth.

The great economic questions that arise when the demand for labor is greater than the supply are not thought of, and legislators are appealed to to enact restrictive laws solely because as a people we have prejudices against certain nationalities.



The larger portion of our population, however, does not sympathize with prohibition, but contents itself with demanding the passage of restrictive laws which shall prevent the landing in our country of such aliens as have been convicts or lunatics, or as may for any reason be likely to become public charges.

So familiar have our ears become with the phrase "the dumping-ground of Europe" (for every orator seems to have found it necessary, when speaking of immigration, to make use of this phrase,) that I think we have over-estimated the extent of the evils that have arisen from this cause.

Have we a right to hope that the newly arriving immigrants shall be superior to the average citizens in the countries from which they come, or, indeed, that they shall be superior to ourselves?

Let us for a minute consider the question. In an able paper read before this conference (at a meeting held, I think, in Washington City) by my greatly esteemed friend, Dr. Wines, it was stated that it had been estimated that, in the United States, one out of every hundred of the population belonged to the criminal or defective classes, whilst, in many of the European continental countries, the proportion of these classes was not less than one in thirty of the entire population.

The immigration to America in the past ten years has averaged not less than 500,000 souls annually. Take such a population in either the United States or in Europe. Would we not find it necessary to have for their benefit a penitentiary, a house of correction or work house, a reformatory for youths, many orphan homes and hospitals almost innumerable, besides many associations for preventive purposes? All of these are required to provide for such a proportion of the defective classes even in our own midst. If such classes should average only one in every hundred, we should have in the United States 5,000 in every 500,000 to care for, or if, as in Europe, they should average one in thirty, then there would be nearly 20,000 in every 500,000 to be cared for. Now, by our laws we demand that no one of the half million annually arriving here shall be (or what is much stronger) "shall be likely to become" a public charge.

Now, speaking from the standpoint of one who has full knowledge of the subject from the experience acquired as a Commissioner of Immigration at the Port of Philadelphia (where the Board of Public Charities of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania have acted

as the agents of the United States government in enforcing the immigration laws,) I am prepared to say that the class of immigrants who have arrived at that port have been far, far above the average. No human power could prevent the landing of some whose presence among us is undesirable, or foresee certain catastrophes which cause many to become public charges who, at the time of landing, have been entirely able to support themselves. But I have no hesitation in asserting, that nothing like the proportion of one in a hundred of those landing in Philadelphia has become, or is likely ever to become, a charge on the public.

For some years past it has been our custom to address a letter annually to each poor-house in the State of Pennsylvania, inquiring how many of its inmates have landed at the Port of Philadelphia within a year from the date of writing, that being the length of time after landing during which, under the immigration laws, aid may be furnished such as fall into distress, it being also the period when, as strangers, the immigrants are most likely to require assistance. (Note, please, that by far the larger part of the immigrants who arrive at the Port of Philadelphia, averaging less than 25,000 annually, remain in the State of Pennsylvania.) We have had replies from every poor-house, and but one case has been reported (that of a woman) who belonged to the prohibited classes of immigrants, and she was returned to her native land at the expense of the steamship company that brought her to America.

One feature in the operation of the restrictive law has been strangely overlooked, and that is its effect on the agents abroad of the several Atlantic steamship lines. The cost of returning the prohibited immigrants, and the difficulties experienced in providing for their care upon arrival at the foreign ports, have caused, I know, the steamship companies to make stringent rules to prevent their agents from selling tickets to such persons as would not be allowed to land here.

It was largely owing to the influence exerted by this conference that congress, in the Act passed in 1882, provided that State Boards of Public Charities might be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury to act as Commissioners of Immigration at the ports in the States in which they existed. The Secretary availed himself of this privilege, and, in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, designated the State Boards of Charities to act as United States Commissioners of Immigration at the ports of Boston and Philadelphia.

The commendation which the Government officials have uniformly accorded these Commissioners for the satisfactory manner in which the work has been done is ample justification for the recommendation for such appointments made by this Conference.

In papers read before this body at its last meeting in Baltimore, it was urged that the law could be more effectually executed by the appointment of Federal officials. This suggestion indicated a total misunderstanding of the position held by the State Boards when acting under the appointment of the Treasury Department. They are as much Federal officials as are any of the many appointees of the general Government. All orders relating to immigration work are signed by them as United States Commissioners. The members of these Boards are appointed, not for political reasons, but on account of their character, and are nearly always men of prominence in the community. If, instead of State Boards, individuals were to receive the appointment, they, too, must, like the members of the Board of Charities, be citizens of the State in which the port of landing is situated. Who, then, would be more likely to make a strict scrutiny into the character of the applicant for admission to our country—who more conversant with pauperism, crime and lunacy, and more anxious to decrease the number of dependents—than those whose duty it is to study the best methods of prevention and treatment?

Who would be better fitted, for instance, to control the machinery for enforcing the law at the Port of New York than the very eminent members of the present State Board of Public Charities? All instructions from the Secretary of the Treasury received by the State Boards come to them directly as United States Commissioners.

Let this Conference pause before it takes action likely to disparage the influence of the State Boards. They are in most instances its creation, and the more widely their ability to aid in the care and treatment of the dependent classes is recognized, the stronger will be their hold on the popular will. Do not let the first stab come from the house of their friends.

*Mr. Biddle:* At the Convention held in Buffalo some years ago there were several speeches made by distinguished men taking the ground that restrictive legislation was necessary, and applying their remarks to the Hungarians and Italians, and the Poles. It seemed to please the audience and they were prepared to pass resolutions strongly condemning the admission of those classes into the United States. I was asked to express my views and I



asked how many of them there were employed in the city of Buffalo, and how they could get along if they excluded them? It is a fact that most of our railroad building is done by those classes. You don't find, as you did a few years ago, Irishmen building the railroads, or cleaning our streets. It is mostly done by the classes I refer to. And the same condition of affairs exists at the coke regions, and in this city of Reading; how could they work their iron shops without the coke that they make? You stop such classes coming to America and where will these workmen come from? If we could get Germans and Irish, and such as we were accustomed to before, to do this work, it would be much more desirable, but the question is, can we materially restrict immigration without restricting our growth as a people? It looks to me as though we would bring ourselves in a position where no new enterprises could be started. There are enough shops and furnaces now to employ all the labor we have. The last Congress passed a law somewhat extending the restrictions beyond the previous law. Before that the only immigrants prohibited from landing were such as were liable to become paupers, from old age or infirmity or weakness of constitution,—not that they must all have money when they came.

Then all convicts—a convict is only such while he is serving sentence—and such as were insane. Now the present law extends to those who become charges within a year. They may land well, but it authorizes their return on the same vessels that brought them, if they become charges within a year. Also that any person who has been once convicted of crime shall not be sent here. The law was that any one seeking employment of any kind was prohibited, and in New York they had a suit because a church who had employed a Scottish clergyman was fined a thousand dollars because they were employing contract labor, but they amended the law so as not to apply to professional persons; so you may call foreign clergymen now.

Now there is a special contract-labor examiner, and if the immigrant answers the other questions satisfactorily he is passed to him and he says, "now you are not liable to become a pauper, but how do you expect to live, have you made any arrangements to go to work here, so you can go to work at once?" and he answers, "yes I have; I have some friends, and they went to see the proprietor of



a large establishment, and he said if I came on he would pay me so much ;” and he says, “ ah, my friend, you have entered into a contract for wages and you must go back.” Then they come under the contract-labor exclusion, and they have to go. So the only ones who can land to-day are able-bodied ones who can work and are not liable to fall by the way, but who have not arranged before coming to have employment found them.

My friend Dr. Hoyt, made a great point at the Buffalo Convention, that the vast majority of those admitted to the poor-houses were foreign born, but aren't nearly all our laborers, everywhere, foreign born ? and they are the persons who when they have fallen by the way are taken into the poor-houses. Because the great percentage are foreign born a great many say that it shows we admit those who ought not to be permitted to come, and that America is made the dumping-ground for all nations.

*Mr. J. D. Carr*, (of Fayette): Submitted the Auditing Committee's report as follows:

John S. Hope in account with Association Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania, 1890.

#### RECEIPTS FROM ASSESSMENTS.

October 22.	Received of Schuylkill County for year 1889	\$ 20 00
“	“ “ Allegheny.....	15 00
“	“ “ Western Pennsylvania Children's Aid Society.....	5 00
“	“ “ Lancaster County.....	15 00
“	“ “ Washington County Including } .. Children's Aid Society }	15 00
“	“ “ Allegheny County.....	15 00
“	“ “ Chester County Aid Society.....	5 00
“	“ “ Philadelphia County, Germantown.	15 00
“	“ “ Adams County.....	15 00
“	“ “ Chester County.....	15 00
“	“ “ Erie County.....	15 00
“	“ “ Northampton County.....	15 00
“	“ “ Westmoreland County.....	15 00
“	“ “ Society for Protection of Children	10 00
“	“ “ Crawford County.....	10 00
“	“ “ Blakely Poor District.....	10 00

October 22,	Received of Blockley Almshouse, Philadelphia..	15 00
" "	" Children's Aid Society of Penn'a	15 00
" "	" Perry County.....	15 00
November	" Scranton Poor District.....	15 00
December 2	" Central Poor District Luzerne County	15 00
" "	" Lebanon County.....	10 00
" "	" Oxford and Lower Dublin.....	15 00
" "	" Mercer County.....	15 00
" "	" Bedford County .....	15 00
" "	" Borough of Sunbury.....	5 00
" "	" York County.....	15 00
" "	" North Luzerne Poor District.....	8 00
" "	" Cumberland County. ....	15 00
" "	" Somerset County.....	12 00
" "	" Franklin County.....	15 00
" "	" Montgomery County.....	15 00
" "	" Department of Charity, Pittsburgh	15 00
" "	" Jenkins Township, Pitts Borough..	5 00
" "	" Delaware County.....	15 00
" "	" Lawrence County, (New Castle)...	5 00
" "	" Blair County.....	15 00
" "	" Middle Coal-field District. ....	10 00
" "	" Berks County.....	15 00
" "	" Huntington County.....	15 00

Receipts..... \$ 520 00

Expenditures..... \$ 451 15

Treasurer's Expenses..... 25 00

476 15

43 85

Bills unpaid:

Balance, Meyers, Shinkle & Company.... \$ 101 75

Amount in Treasury. .... 43 85

Debt of Convention..... 66 90

Amount of assessment for each District..... \$ 20 00

We the undersigned committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Treasurer do hereby certify the foregoing account to be true and correct.

JOHN D. CARR,

GEO. M. SHELLCROS,

JOHN D. MILLER.

Upon motion of Col. Gould, of Erie, the report of the Auditing Committee is adopted, together with the recommendation of paying the Treasurer the amount specified—\$25.

*President Snyder:* As Mr. Colborn is to go away soon, I would like to introduce him to you as our next President of this Association.

*Mr. Colborn, (of Somerset):* Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen. I must be in Pittsburgh, but before I leave I desire to return my thanks for the honor you have conferred upon me this day. I am not going to make a speech, but next year I hope, on entering on my duties, to lay before you certain matters that may be interesting to you. I hope we may all go away feeling that it was good for us to be here. That we may take to our homes and our institutions a feeling that will inspire us to greater efforts for the care and maintenance of the poor. The lines that are so expressive, in the little poem of "Abou Ben Adhem," by Leigh Hunt, seem very appropriate to use here, to conclude my remarks to you.

"ABOU BEN ADHEM."

BY LEIGH HUNT.

Abou Ben Adhem, (may his tribe increase!)  
Awoke one night from a deep dream of peace,  
And saw within the moonlight in his room,  
Making it rich, and like a lily in bloom,  
An Angel writing in a book of gold.  
Exceeding peace had made Ben Adhem bold,  
And to the presence in the room he said,  
"What writest thou?" The vision raised its head,  
And with a look made of all sweet accord,  
Answer'd, "The names of those who love the Lord."  
"And mine is one?" said Abou. "Nay, not so,"  
Replied the Angel. Abou spoke more low,  
But cheerly still, and said, "I pray thee, then,  
Write me as one that loves his fellow-men."  
The Angel wrote, and vanish'd.

The next night

It came again with a great wakening light,  
And showed the names whom love of God had blest,  
And lo! Ben Adhem's name led all the rest.

*The President :* I would like to say just a word in regard to the Directors of this county. It seems that the present Directors had no knowledge of the intention of this Convention to be held here and therefore they were unprepared until within a short time, to do anything for us; but since they found it out they went to work and with that enterprise for which they are noted have done all in their power to make the Convention a success. I think they deserve a vote of thanks, to be recorded on the minutes.

*Mr Brumbaugh :* I move that a vote of thanks be tendered to the Directors of the Poor of this county, and to their Attorney, especially, who has taken so great an interest in our welfare.

*Mr. Rieser :* Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen, I don't think it necessary to include the name of the Attorney in the vote of thanks. He did no more than he thought was his duty, and he is only sorry, together with the Directors, that they did not know more of the character of this Convention, so they might have done more for your comfort. We might have procured a more comfortable place of meeting; but we did the best we could under the circumstances. But the Directors have arranged to take you over Mt. Penn, and have provided a little repast for you there, and desire that you go to-morrow morning at half past ten.

The resolution of Mr. Brumbaugh, to extend a vote of thanks to the Directors of Berks County and to their Attorney is agreed to.

Upon motion of Mr. McGonnigle the Convention adjourned to meet at seven o'clock, P. M.

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### EVENING SESSION.

Pursuant to adjournment the Convention met at 7 P. M. and was called to order by President Snyder, and was opened with prayer by the Rev. Brownmiller.

*The President :* We have with us Mr. R. D. Layton, U. S. Immigrant Inspector, who will address you on the Immigration Laws.



*Mr. Layton* : I had a somewhat extended address, but as the substance of it was given this afternoon by Mr. Biddle, I will not go over that ground. I came here to tell you how you may rid yourselves of those who have no right to the charities of the American people. The law of March 3d, 1891, as amended, is not well known to the officers and Directors of the various almshouses and charitable institutions of this State or any other State. It was passed in the latter part of the session and the appropriation for printing ran out and it was not generally distributed.

The law of March 3d reads as follows, as related to those in charge of almshouses : " all idiots, insane persons, or persons likely to become a public charge, persons suffering from a loathsome or a dangerous contagious disease, persons who have been convicted of a felony or other infamous crime or misdemeanor involving moral turpitude, polygamists, and also any person whose ticket or passage is paid for with the money of another or who is assisted by others to come, unless it is affirmatively and satisfactorily shown on special inquiry that such person does not belong to one of the foregoing excluded classes," etc.

We have worked this thing in Pittsburgh to see how it would operate and to get decisions on it before it was made general. We have succeeded in sending back every man and woman who has been reported to me, so far. The parties there can testify that the law, when intelligently handled, is effective in removing those who come here as professional paupers, or who, after landing are liable to become a public charge and are still aliens.

There was a mother and two children named Nelson came here at the solicitation of her sister who was here to take care of her when she landed, but their house burned down and their little store with it, and the sister wasn't able to take care of her and applied for charity. She was reported to me and I reported her case and she was returned at once. Another case of an Austrian who came to this country last May and took typhoid fever which terminated in paralysis, which incapacitated him entirely from work, and I purposed returning him, but his countrymen spirited him out of the country. I had an order, however, for his return.

Another case was an Irish woman who came here from county Galway, Ireland, whose husband died four months before she left Ireland, and her passage was paid by two sisters, and she landed

in Philadelphia. She was refused by the White Star Line, but was booked by the American line, and landed in Philadelphia. A blind man might have detected that she was unfit. But she finally got to Pittsburgh and after exhausting the patience of friends and acquaintances in Pittsburgh she notified the Poor Board, she would have to have assistance; and I went to see her and asked if she wanted to go back and was able to make the trip, and she said she would be ready, and I notified her to be ready to go. This is the case as reported in the papers.

(Mr. Layton here read the newspaper report of the case of Mary Mullin.)

*Mr. Layton:* In these matters you have a very wide latitude and your judgment must determine whether or not they are likely to become a public charge. If you determine that you have any such who have landed here since April first—and I state that that you keep the date to yourself—the law didn't go into effect until April 1st, and anyone coming here on or after April 1st, who come under the head, by notifying me at Pittsburgh, if you are west of Altoona, and if east of there Mr. W. D. Owen, Superintendent of Immigration, Washington, D.C., and question, and get their history; the country they come from; their age; their family relations; when they came here; what they labor at; what vessel they came on; where they landed; but remember that the government, in her great charity does not consider that every one who may not have a dollar in their pocket or a job to do is a pauper. A foreigner who has landed here has the charitable construction that he is not a pauper.

*Col. Gould, (Erie Co.):* Who pays the expenses back to the sea-board?

*Mr. Layton:* The almshouse authorities pay the expenses from the almshouse to the port at which they enter. There is no provision in the law to pay any expenses except from the port of landing; so you pay their way to the port of entry in the United States. But before doing that you will report the case to the Superintendent of Immigration, or to myself, with its history complete, and an order will be sent to you to send them to the port of entry, and an

order will be there in hands of the collector of customs, who will see that the pauper is returned to his own country. As to their jumping off the trains and going elsewhere those are questions of precaution that must be decided by the best judgment of the parties returning them. I haven't known of any such cases. But if you thing a person is going to become a public charge, not temporarily but liable to continue so, under the law it is your duty to report the case, and it is perhaps the most humane way out. But by sending a few back every month or so it might possibly teach those on the other side that they cannot repeat the dose of 1876, when they sent 667 paupers out of the county of Clair, Ireland, in one vessel. I was informed by the Chief at Pittsburgh, Mr. Elliott, that there were 26 families yet drawing relief in Pittsburgh, from that ship-load. In other words, the county of Clair, after that vessel sailed didn't have one pauper left in the county. America got them all.

The desire however, to get into this country and get into our poor-houses, is great yet. I have had them ask me in the port of New York how long they would have to remain in this country before the would be eligible to the poor-house. Their whole aim in coming here was to get enough citizenship to get them into the poor-houses. I will say that the administration is thoroughly in earnest in the execution of this law. They desire it executed. The immigration question is perhaps one of the greatest moment of any we have before us. Some are for the utter exclusion of immigration, others for unlimited immigration, and the Government has taken a middle course. They are trying only to restrict the vicious and bad. The ruling of the Attorney General has left a loop hole so we are unable to execute the law as closely as we might. He determines that if a man give a bond that he will not become a public charge he is admissible. Since that decision a company of bondsmen have started at Philadelphia, and at Baltimore, and Boston, and Portland and other points whose business it is to go on a bond, that a man will not become a public charge. There has never been a recovery upon one of them and it has admitted a great many that would not have come in any other way. There will be an attempt this winter to have that ruling set aside. If any of you have inmates of this class that have come since April 1st you report them and I will guarantee

that they will be returned to the country from which they came. If you will write me I will mail you a copy of this law.

*Col. Gould, (Erie Co.):* There is a head-tax isn't there, upon every immigrant that comes in?

*Mr. Layton:* Yes, sir, 50 cents.

*Col. Gould:* Isn't that available to pay the expense, before they are sent back.

*Mr. Layton:* No, sir.

*Col. Gould:* Didn't Pittsburgh collect a bill for supporting a pauper in the almshouse, of this class?

*Mr. Layton:* Yes, they collected it from the Government, with the sanction of the State Board. That was an exceptional case.

*Col. Gould:* What is that 50 cents head-tax used for?

*Mr. Layton:* No one could tell what it was used for.

*Col. Gould:* Supposing you learn that a pauper had come since that time and they were taken sick and required immediate attention, or perhaps a woman who required care in confinement, and that couldn't be shipped back at once; isn't there some fund growing out of that head-tax that could be used to re-imburse the expense of keeping them?

*Mr. Layton:* In the rarest instances they have used a part of that. I think the city of Pittsburgh succeeded very unexpectedly in collecting that bill I refer to.

*Mr. Gould:* It is admitted that there is not one one-hundredth of it that is used for any purpose.

*Mr. Layton:* Heretofore that is so, but now it will be used. Formerly the head-tax was used as a fund for the protection of immigrants, and any time within five years he was eligible for protection, out of that fund.



*Mr. McGonnigle:* We have a meeting next year, and our people would be very much pleased to have you with us, and possibly we would be better prepared to receive you and you would be better prepared to explain something further about the operation of this law.

*Mr. Layton:* The government is getting statistics from the State of Pennsylvania, with reference to the pauperism of the State. They desire the number of inmates in your institutions, the number that are foreign-born, their country and their trade if they have one, their age, and those that have foreign-born parents and are native born themselves.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* I move that we extend to Mr. Layton a vote of thanks, for the valuable information that he has given us upon the subject of having foreign paupers returned, and that we will heartily co-operate with him in this matter. Agreed to.

*The President:* We will listen to a paper by Mr. Brumbaugh, on "the different systems of caring for the poor in this State."

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* A little more than eleven years ago I had the pleasure of being introduced to our worthy Corresponding Secretary. During that eleven years our relations have been of the most pleasant character. A month ago he wrote to me of the trouble he had in getting persons to take parts on the programme, and ask me to do something. I told him they had often heard from me and asked to be excused. But he assigned me the subject I have before me.

### PENNSYLVANIA'S THREE SYSTEMS OF CARING FOR HER INDIGENT POOR.

The Keystone State is noted for the liberal and ample care of her indigent and helpless wards. No State in the American Union can boast of better provisions for the dependent poor. The first legislative organization made provisions for the care of the dependent poor, and we had the overseer first, and not long after the almshouse system was introduced. It must be admitted that the overseer system or township plan was best adapted to the early wants of the province

and State. The population was sparse, and the people and the government were unable to pay for almshouses, and even if they were, they were not suited to our early wants.

The counties were large occupying a vast domain of territory. It was inconvenient to convey the poor a long distance to the almshouse even if it was centrally located, for we originally had but three counties in the State; Philadelphia, Bucks, and Chester. But as soon as population becomes dense enough the overseer system should give away to the almshouse. Philadelphia City as early as 1729, upon the representations of the overseers of the poor to the Assembly, reported the inadequate accommodations for the poor, and recommended the erection of an almshouse. The Assembly acted on the suggestion and passed the necessary legislation. A suitable site was purchased, and in 1732 the first almshouse in the province of Pennsylvania was completed. The second in 1766.

'Twas in this second almshouse, "home of the homeless,  
 "Then in the suburbs, it stood in the midst of meadows and  
 woodlands;—

Now the city surrounds it." \* \* \* \*

Evangeline, who "for many years lived a Sister of Mercy,  
 frequenting

Lonely and wretched roofs in the crowded lanes of the city,  
 Where distress and want concealed themselves from the sunlight,  
 Where disease and sorrow in garrets languished neglected.  
 Thus, on a Sabbath morn, through the streets deserted and silent,  
 Wending her quiet way, she entered the door of the almshouse.  
 Sweet on the summer air was the odor of flowers in the garden,  
 And she paused on her way to gather the fairest among them,  
 That the dying once more might rejoice in their fragrance and  
 beauty,"

———She found her long sought Gabriel.

This system thus organized has steadily grown in favor with the people of our great State as its demands required it until now there are seventy almshouses in our State as follows: Thirty-five counties represent each one district for the poor, and have one almshouse for the county. Fifteen counties have one or more district or local almshouses for the city, borough or township, or several cities, boroughs and townships combined.

Nine of the counties, Carbon, Center, Clearfield, Clinton, Lawrence, Luzerne, Lycoming, Monroe and Wayne, have a district or local poorhouse. Montour and Northumberland have two local or district poorhouses. Allegheny and Columbia counties have each three local

poorhouses. Armstrong, Philadelphia and Susquehanna counties, have each four local poorhouses, and Lackawanna county have five local almshouses.

These seventy-two almshouse districts represent a population of 4,472,259, while the 740 overseer districts represent only 785,755 population, being less than one-sixth of the population of our State.

Fifteen counties have no poorhouses. They are Butler, Cameron, Clarion, Elk, Forest, Fulton, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Pike, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Union and Wyoming.

All the counties in the State which have no almshouses are abundantly able to adopt the almshouse system, if they are inclined to do so. It is true some of these counties are small with sparse population, but some of them are populous and wealthy.

At our last convention, which assembled at Lancaster, a year ago we unanimously adopted the resolution presented by Mr. Spiegel, of Westmoreland: Resolution 2d, "That each county of this Commonwealth shall constitute a single district, and that each county composing such poor district, have a county home."

We desire to present such facts and figures, showing that this resolution as adopted, is to the best interest of those counties, and districts which still adhere to the overseer of township system.

In the first place we shall show to you that the overseer system is more expensive. The report of public charities for 1890, shows that the 740 overseer districts spent \$323,276.22, for the management and care of the indigent poor, representing a population of 785,755. Now this is at an average of forty-one cents per capita to support the poor in these districts. The same report shows that the thirty-five counties with single district and one poorhouse, represents a population of 2,377,348, and the expenditure for the poor was \$884,695.92, or thirty-seven cents per capita, is four cents less. Now you see that the almshouse system is the most economical in a financial point of view. Now of the \$323,000, \$40,000 was paid out for services of overseers and officers, and other expenses, litigation, etc. You see that there are in these 740 districts 15,000 overseers and as many physicians and attorneys to pay. The expenses eat up what ought to be given to the poor. There is a great deal of litigation by the different townships over the settlement of disputed paupers, each trying to put them on the other, which often ends with large bills caused by litigation to fix the settlement. The poor are often very inhumanly and unkindly treated when there is a dispute as to the legal settlement of the pauper. Now let us look at some of the methods



resorted to in the care of the poor under the overseer system. The keeping of the pauper is sometimes given to the lowest bidder, who will board him and maintain him the cheapest. In many cases the pauper has scarcely enough to keep soul and body together and must work more than he ought to do, to satisfy the party who keeps him. Their object in taking him from the overseers is to make money in keeping the poor person, old and decrepid, fast coming to the natural close of life, at a time when he should be exempt from work except it might be for exercise. Oft-times the food he receives is anything but wholesome and nutritious.

He must often sleep on hard beds, in cold garrets, with not sufficient clothing to keep him warm.

There are other strong reasons against the overseer system which we shall not recount. Now let us look at the almshouse system.

The farm and home is located and constructed for the care and comfort of the poor. Under the management of directors and superintendents who are specially adapted to care for the poor, the home is a pleasant, comfortable place, well fitted up and made pleasant to those whose misfortune compels them to resort to the almshouse, yet with all this there is an aversion in going there. The natural honor and pride of the American is such that he will be content with almost anything sooner than to have it ever said that he was an inmate of the county almshouse. Almshouses decrease pauperism. No man or woman wants to be sent to the almshouse except it becomes an absolute necessity. If they apply for relief, and when you say they must go to the almshouse, a large majority of persons will exert themselves and resort to almost any other means than go there. So the poorhouse is a constant menace to become paupers, and in this way is an incentive to decrease pauperism, if too much out-door relief is not granted. The large amount is given out by overseers in the way of out-door relief. Permit me now to make some comparisons between the two systems.

Blair and Cambria are two counties which adjoin Center and Clearfield. Blair, with a population of 70,856, expended \$12,210.10; Cambria, population 66,375, expended \$13,886.79; these are counties with almshouses. Center county, with a population of 43,269, expenditures of \$30,052.82, or sixty-nine cents per capita; Clearfield county, with a population of 69,565, expenditure \$30,995.19, or forty-four cents per capita. The population of the two first counties 35,000 more than the latter, and yet the two latter expend \$36,000 more than the former.



Look at the counties of Mifflin and Juniata, almost the same in size and territory. Mifflin county with almshouse and a population of 19,996, expends \$3,579.13; Juniata, population 16,655, expends \$9,804.29, or \$6,325.16 more than its sister adjoining county.

	Population.	Expenditures.	Per Capita.
1 Adams.....	33,486	\$11,923 90	\$ 36
2 Beaver.....	50,077	14,336 49	29
3 Bedford.....	38,644	10,327 23	27
4 Berks.....	137,327	48,958 91	35
5 Blair.....	70,866	12,201 10	17
6 Bradford.....	59,233	20,139 57	34
7 Bucks.....	70,615	19,382 39	28
8 Cambria.....	66,375	13,886 79	21
9 Chester.....	89,377	35,847 17	40
10 Crawford.....	65,324	30,644 59	47
11 Cumberland.....	47,271	15,108 87	32
12 Dauphin.....	96,977	26,371 04	21
13 Delaware.....	74,653	27,739 72	38
14 Erie.....	86,074	29,450 20	34
15 Fayette.....	80,006	23,411 56	29
16 Franklin.....	51,433	16,804 93	33
17 Greene..	28,935	5,208 44	18
18 Huntingdon.....	35,751	10,933 62	31
19 Lebanon.....	48,131	10,252 04	21
20 Lancaster.....	149,095	48,086 25	32
21 Lehigh.....	76,631	19,465 23	25
22 Mercer.....	55,744	20,785 55	37
23 Mifflin.....	19,996	3,579 13	18
24 Montgomery.....	123,290	40,414 48	33
25 Northampton.....	84,220	25,336 18	30
26 Perry.....	26,276	8,150 18	31
27 Schuylkill.....	154,163	78,507 91	51
28 Somerset.....	37,317	6,783 75	18
29 Tioga.....	52,313	34,735 52	67
30 Venango.....	46,640	37,537 67	80
31 Warren.....	37,585	12,123 78	33
32 Washington.....	71,155	14,323 39	20
33 Westmoreland.....	112,819	31,000 00	27
34 York.....	99,419	30,745 44	30
	<hr/> 2,377,346	<hr/> \$884,695 92	<hr/> \$0 37

	Population.	Expenditures.	Per Capita.
1 Allegheny County—			
Allegheny Home.....	208,055	\$46,624 73	22
Allegheny City.....	105,287	43,408 46	41
Pittsburgh .....	238,617	56,066 42	23
2 Armstrong County—			
Brady's Bend.....	1,261	1,416 75	1 18
Kittanning .....	3,095	3,821 86	1 21
Madison.....	1,763	842 89	49
Washington.....	1,232	930 00	84
3 Carbon County—			
Middle Coal Field....	55,932	47,141 12	84
4 Centre County—			
Bellefonte.....	3,946	7,128 32	1 80
5 Clearfield County—			
Dubois.....	6,149	1,783 12	28
6 Clinton County—			
Lockhaven....	7,358	2,944 46	40
7 Columbia County—			
Bloom.....	4,635	4,637 36	1 00
Centralia.....	2,761	6,806 88	2 46
Madison .....	1,072	523 61	51
8 Lackawanna County—			
Blakeley.. .....	16,474	9,629 70	60
Carbondale.....	10,833	4,727 34	43
Scranton .....	83,570	74,738 47	90
N. Luzerne.....	4,445	2,450 20	56
Ransom.....	34,312	12,609 24	37
9 Lawrence County—			
New Castle .....	11,600	8,018 81	60
10 Luzerne County—			
Central.....	162,726	31,105 40	19
11 Lycoming County—			
Williamsport.....	27,132	14,455 09	53
12 Monroe County—			
East Stroudsburg.....	1,819	343 87	19
13 Montour County—			
Danville & Mahoning..	10,169	5,218 75	51
Valley Township.....	890	647 16	71

14 Northumberland County—			
Coal Township.....	22,019	16,693 97	76
Sunbury .....	5,930	2,672 80	44
15 Philadelphia County—			
Blockley.....	1,044,664	557,890 80	51
Roxbury.....			
Germantown. ....			
Oxford, &c.....			
16 Susquehanna County—			
Auburn and Rush....	2,969	1,665 30	55
Montrose and B.....	2,955	3,289 17	1 09
New Milford Twp....	1,244	931 27	77
Depot and Oakland...	5,427	2,004 50	37
17 Wayne County—			
Honesdale and Texas..	7,325	5,931 62	81
Totals.....	2,121,911	\$898,184 77	\$0 42

	Districts.	Population.	Expenditures.	Per Capita.
Armstrong.....	34	38,396	\$18,103 44	47
Butler .....	46	55,339	16,445 22	30
Cameron.....	7	7,238	2,746 92	38
Carbon .....	12	18,459	4,577 32	25
Centre.....	30	39,323	22,924 50	59
Clarion....	33	36,802	16,374 44	44
Clearfield .....	45	63,456	29,219 07	46
Clinton .....	26	21,227	8,212 37	39
Columbia.....	16	18,278	8,274 76	45
Elk.....	13	22,339	10,157 95	46
Forest .....	9	8,482	2,734 87	32
Fulton.....	12	10,137	1,827 23	18
Indiana.....	30	42,175	21,373 82	51
Jefferson.....	32	44,005	14,875 00	33
Juniata.....	17	16,655	9,804 29	60
Lackawanna .....	17	14,384	4,466 24	32
Lawrence.....	20	25,917	11,671 61	39
Luzerne .....	47	38,526	8,798 09	23
Lycoming .....	51	43,437	16,485 47	36
Monroe.....	19	18,292	5,144 83	28

Montour.....	8	4,636	3,125 12	70
Northumberland....	28	42,679	23,511 58	55
Pike.....	12	9,412	1,855 98	19
Potter.....	27	22,778	7,119 38	31
Snyder .....	17	17,651	6,825 40	39
Sullivan .....	12	11,620	2,516 71	22
Susquehanna .....	34	27,498	13,146 40	48
Union .....	13	17,820	9,855 98	55
Wayne .....	26	23,685	10,648 17	46
Wyoming.....	21	15,891	4,538 97	30
Phila., Bristol Co....	1	2,666	1,333 66	50
McKean, Brad. Co..	1	10,514	3,581 26	35
Totals.....	740	785,755	\$323,276 22	41

The whole number of persons in the almshouses September 30, 1890, was 9,026; insane, 4,764; persons receiving out-door relief, 18,036; total, 31,810, or seven persons to every thousand in almshouse districts. Overseer districts, 6,242 persons were supported, or eight persons for every thousand in population. This shows that there is on an average of one person in every thousand more that receives support in overseer districts than almshouse districts; this in the same proportion, would increase the number receiving support throughout the State to 4,499; then this is a saving to the State of almost \$200,000. This again is certainly a strong argument in favor of the almshouse system. All the arguments, facts and figures are in favor of the almshouse system. We further believe that the people composing the overseer districts, if they were acquainted with the facts, would soon adopt this system.

It is the duty of this Association, the Board of Public Charities, the public press, and all interested in the work of charity and the alleviation of the dependent poor in our great Commonwealth, to work for a uniform almshouse system, with one district and one county home, except as to the districts in Philadelphia and Allegheny counties which may make the institution too large and unwieldy for one district and almshouse.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* The Pittsburgh *Dispatch* has lately had a series of articles printed touching on this same subject; their Mr. Stoffel has gone over the ground carefully and gathered a lot of statistics and a great deal of information that has never appeared



in print before. There were three articles printed, and one editorial; we haven't time to-night for me to attempt to read them. This morning I read an extract from one of them as to the testimony of an overseer in Monroe county. They are well written and full of valuable information and will do a great deal of good. Under the circumstances, I think that for the information they contain we ought to have them printed as an appendix to our report, giving the the *Pittsburgh Dispatch*, and the writer, Mr. Stofiel, credit for it. I think you will take my word for it that they are worthy of being printed or I wouldn't ask for it, and I make the motion that they be printed as an appendix in our report, and that the *Pittsburgh Dispatch* and Mr. Stofiel be thanked for them. The motion is agreed to.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* It may seem egotism on my part to say that Blair county expended a smaller amount than any other county in the State; but I will say that ten years ago the expenditures were \$10,000 more than they were last year. Two of our Directors are serving their third term and one of them has been nominated again. The steward has been there eight years and has sent in his resignation on several occasions and the Directors are in possession of his resignation at the present time, but they will not accept it. And I believe these matters go far towards reducing the expenses. I know that our poor are better cared for now than they were when we had larger expenditures. Our officers have experience. No person can do this work well and systematically till he has made the subject a study and has had a great deal of experience in it. We found it so when we made frequent changes in our Poor Board and stewards. Those who are specially adapted to the work and have the experience should be retained. Everything seems to be running along smoothly with us and our people are satisfied, and desire to retain the present officers.

*The President:* The district that I represent don't believe in making changes, and the adjoining district the same. One of our members has served thirty-six consecutive years; I have been thirty-five years connected with the Board, and we consider that

for the first two years a man is of very little account. And Germantown does the same thing, and that is why you see the representatives here year after year.

We will now hear from Miss Mary E. Garrett on "training in speech of deaf children."

Miss Garrett read the following paper :

### THE TRAINING IN SPEECH OF YOUNG DEAF CHILDREN.

Our first duty toward the dependent classes being to make them independent, my present work for the deaf is a step in that direction. We are about to establish in Pennsylvania a "Home for the training in speech of deaf children before they are of school age," and I am very glad of this opportunity to meet with the Ladies' Aid Societies and the Directors of the Poor, of the State, so that they may notify me of any deaf infants or young deaf children who may come under their notice.

As there is one deaf person to every 1,500 of our population, their interests must be considered.

In order to explain why such a Home is the next step toward making the deaf independent, useful and happy, I must briefly show how this work has gone on very slowly but steadily since the days when they were classed with the insane. The first advance from this ignorant injustice was to educate them through a sign language which, although possible to a certain extent, leaves them as strangers in a strange land when they leave the institution to go out into a world where these signs are not understood. The next advance was inaugurated between one and two hundred years ago in Germany, when Heinecke introduced the Oral Method of teaching them to speak and read the lips, thus bringing them into communication with the world in which they must live. In Europe to-day, 263 out of 338 schools for the deaf employ the Oral Method. The United States is behind Europe in this respect. We have between sixty and seventy institutions for the deaf and not more than fifteen or twenty of them are pure Oral Schools. Strange to say, the only opposition that I have ever heard of to teaching the deaf to speak, has come from those in control of schools for the deaf. Much of this opposition however, is disappearing before the success of the Oral teachers, whose persistency reminds one of Ericsson, who persisted in making the propeller a success when the entire Board of the British Admiralty, First Lord and all, had

demonstrated that it would be impossible to steer a vessel propelled by a screw applied at the stern. These teachers have gone on quietly accomplishing one thing after another which they had been told was impossible. A justly distinguished Boston clergyman wrote, not long since, that in a universe the size of this, a modest man ought to hesitate about saying what is or what is not impossible.

I will quote here from a paper written by myself and sister on this subject :

"We notice that hearing and deaf children begin to babble sounds like syllables when they are a few months old ; it is alike natural to them to talk ; they inherit the tendency to express their feelings and desires with their voices. Here, then, our work begins. The caretakers of the hearing baby, the world over, understand this, or, at least, act as though they do, and they meet and encourage the baby efforts by addressing its ear with simple words and sentences incessantly repeated in connection with the objects and ideas. Every successful effort of the infant is hailed with delight and it is continually encouraged to repeat each new attainment for the delectation of admiring relatives and friends. Not only is a word or a sentence, as soon as learned, constantly used in its proper place as a medium of communication, but no other means than speech are used as the child develops. The result we all know—the child talks.

"It is natural for deaf children to make their eyes do duty for their ears. The work of their caretakers is, therefore, plain ; let them first use ingenuity and skill in directing the attention of the children to the mouth and never distract their attention from it by motions of any sort made by the hand. By nature they are imitative ; by nature they incline to talk ; by nature what they do continually becomes a habit. The caretakers' duty is to give them only speech to imitate, and plenty of it as the hearing children get ; to meet their natural impulse to talk with every possible aid and to see that they use it constantly that it may become the habit of their lives as it is of the hearing children.

"We learn from nature that our different organs are developed by use and exercise and that disuse impairs them. Therefore, a deaf child's voice and speech organs are more likely to be injured by not beginning to use them at the natural period, than by commencing to talk at the age normal children commence.

"Deaf children who are guided and trained to speech from infancy are more likely to have natural voices than those whose voices are unnaturally neglected until they are older.

"It is among the possibilities of the Oral Method that these simple facts may become to be so well and generally understood that ALL deaf children will be thus treated in their own homes. The present need, however, is for the establishment of Homes where deaf children can be trained in speech from the time they are discovered to be deaf until they are of school age. We are about to establish one in Pennsylvania.



"Europe has set us the example of superseding sign schools by Oral schools and we can help her by showing her that the training must begin in babyhood and before the children are of school age.

"Caretakers cannot be too careful to avoid mouthing, using their arms in talking to the children and everything that is unnatural, as the children are so imitative; if we always give them the right thing to imitate they will be all the while gaining. It is a solemn truth for us all to remember that we cannot be in the presence of little children without being their teachers. Everything we do and everything we say has an influence on them. It is a law of nature and we cannot escape it.

"When we think of how much the deaf accomplish in our Oral Schools under the existing disadvantages of entering without the vocabulary that normal children of that age have; that the years they spend in school are usually fewer than normal people spend; that not only the general public, but frequently their families and friends do not yet understand the necessity of keeping up and improving their speech and stock of language by talking with them, we can form an idea of the possibilities of the method when it is perfected by beginning at the natural age, giving them as much time at school as they require and the same opportunities of the general communication with others that we all have.

"If we take the first of these steps, viz: Train them from babyhood in speech, it will "count" on the other two as, if they enter school with some speech and language, they will gain more in the school years and be better able to communicate with their families and the public generally when they go out into the world.

"Enough cases so treated have become like normal people in speech and language to make us trust that others so treated will become so. The applications that have already come to us for the admission of little ones into the Home show, that hard as it is for the mothers to part with them, the benefit to the children will induce them to do it. The States provide for the free education of children. As there is only one deaf one to every fifteen hundred of the population the slight additional expense of giving the afflicted ones the benefit of all known opportunities for their education ought not to be considered. The fact is, it is really economy to give them the advantages which will make them like normal people in their ability to communicate with their fellows and, therefore, self-supporting and useful citizens.

While it is entirely possible to make them so, by giving them equal advantages with the normal people, we cannot hope for complete success if we deprive them of any part of these advantages.

At the last meeting of the Legislature we secured an appropriation of \$15,000 for our buildings. At the next meeting of the Legislature we shall no doubt get a *per capita* allowance for maintenance. In the meantime a number of young children are waiting to get in the Home



and we are straining every nerve to raise the \$12,000 or \$15,000 more for the furnishing and maintenance in temporary quarters while we have no maintenance from the State.

I append a letter written as an appeal for this cause because the writer is a distinguished and experienced aurist and it contains his views on this subject. All the advanced educators in our State are in sympathy with this effort for the improved education of our deaf children.

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My dear Miss Garrett:—It gives me much pleasure to be able to indorse your efforts in behalf of the Infant Deaf Mutes of our State, and to add my own appeal as suggested by many years of experience with the little ones.

For many a long year it has been our wish that we might be able to do more than suggest a method of instruction, unsatisfactory at best, to be used in the cases of little children unable to hear, brought to us through anxious parents, urgently hoping against hope, and praying: "Doctor we come to see whether or not our child can hear, and if it does not hear to see what can be done."

While appreciating fully the immense sacrifice parents must make when we advise them earnestly against the use of signs by which to communicate with a dear child, so much dearer for its infirmity—we know it is the only chance by which the unfortunate little one may take its part later in life in any society other than that of the few who are able to understand the sign language. With all such means of communications entirely ignored, they will learn more and more to depend upon the motion of the lips of those about them.

The oral training of a deaf infant must begin at the same age as in the case of a hearing child. Parents able to command talent in the person of a special teacher at home, must be possessed of unusual good judgment, perseverance, and firmness of character, to support their teacher in securing the attention, affection, and interest of the child. On the other hand what is to become of such children in our State, of parents of limited means; say, scarcely able to earn food and clothing? Who will look after these children? They must of necessity be neglected.

Thanks, however, to the powers that be, our State has already made partial provision for such unfortunates, and has furnished money enough for a building to be known as the Home for the train-

ing in Speech of Deaf Children before they are of School Age," where the necessary preparatory work is accomplished before such are entered in the Oral Schools. Having our building assured, we are in want of from \$10,000 to \$15,000 for furnishing and maintenance until the Legislature shall meet again, when we shall secure a per-capita allowance. Little deaf children are now waiting for admission so that they may be taught to talk. Anxious, helpless parents are praying for assistance in educating their bright ones, anticipating the happy day when they are going to hear for the first time, the little one talk.

Pause a moment and reflect, you parents with children able to talk. Suppose one of them never had spoken, and that you could expect the romping boy, or the gentle little girl to be able in six months or even less time, to call you by name. Your joy, your fullness of heart would be indescribable. They who have their little ones prattling and chattering about them, while appreciating their blessings are taking all for granted; but we want to assure you that the parental anguish at recognizing an infant as "deaf and dumb" is acute.

When we are pleadingly called upon as medical men for advice, while we must answer: "Alas, your child is deaf," we can add, "but do not despair, it shall speak, and not only this but it shall understand. Your darling shall not be dumb or be called a dummy, but will call you 'Mother,' or 'Father,' converse with others, go to school later, and mingle with society and life."

It is for the little deaf ones we are pleading. We have a home for them, but it is neither furnished nor equipped, and the larder is empty. Help us to start, and we shall soon be able to take care of ourselves.

In temporary quarters we can go to work, and before the return of another Summer, the deaf and dumb babies will be conversing with those about them, and they shall not be known as "dummies" but as wonders.

With the hope that this appeal may secure consideration, I am,

Yours truly,

CHARLES S. TURNBULL, M. D.

1719 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia.

October 1, 1891.

*Col. Gould, (of Erie):* I desire to know if deaf and dumb children who have been taught to speak can converse with one another?

*Miss Garrett:* Yes, my own pupils can do that.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Those of us who were at Scranton in 1886, I think, will remember with pleasure the exhibition that Miss Garrett's pupils gave there of their ability to speak after SEEING someone talk. They brought a young boy there to our meeting who, by seeing the motion of the lips, could tell what was said and answer the questions. It was marvelous and it surprised everyone there, the success that they had had in learning deaf children to talk. This now is an advanced step over and above what they did then.

Dr. Wiley was to have read a paper this afternoon on the "chronic insane." He was formerly Assistant Superintendent at Dixmont Hospital, and is now a specialist in Pittsburgh; he sent a note to me that he could not be with us but would be pleased to have a paper for our next meeting. He asked also, the fee we charged for joining our Association. It occurred to me that it might be well to make some slight changes in our organization and provide for annual dues to cover cases of this kind.

There is another matter that ought to be brought to your attention and that is that the State has made an appropriation of half a million dollars and appointed a commission for the erection of a hospital for the chronic insane of the State. The commission has recently selected a site within a few miles of this city. Everyone who is familiar with the subject at all knows that a hospital here, within 50 miles of Philadelphia will be very little help to the western part of the State, and it seems to me that if they are going to build this hospital here the best we can do is to ask for a similar institution in the western part of the State, and we ought to shape our plans in that direction, and see if we can't get the same advantages for the western part of the State, that the State proposes to give to the eastern.

*Mr. Hunker:* I hope that the Convention will not forget the matter brought up last year, in regard to the establishment of an institution for the care of the feeble-minded children in the western part of the State. We now have seven children in our district seeking for admission into some institution.

*President Snyder:* We have gone through our programme now, and a motion to adjourn, to meet at Erie would be in order.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* We ought to settle the time of holding the next meeting; and it has been suggested that it might be well to hold the meeting earlier.

*Col. Gould:* Now we haven't urged the Convention to come to Erie. We have always said that when you wanted to come we were ready to receive you, and would do all we could to make your stay pleasant. Erie is not a cold-weather town. The pleasures of going to Erie are not enhanced by waiting until cold weather. We are on the lake, and to come in warm weather will be far more pleasant. We have one pleasure resort about five miles from the city, and it is very pleasant there, and we have our bay, five miles long, with pleasure boats upon it, and you can have a delightful ride and land at the mouth of the harbor, where is located one of the finest life-saving stations in the United States, which will give you an exhibition of what they can do, and it will pay you well if you never saw anything of the kind.

*Mr. Guy* (of Allegheny County): I think it would be a good thing for you farmers to take a little rest before your fall work commences.

I know of no time that would suit the farmers better than the latter part of August. I have been a farmer all my life until a short time ago.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* Seven years ago we went to Erie, and it was one of the pleasantest and largest meetings we ever had. We have been some time getting at the right time to hold these meetings, and I think we have about the best time in the year.

I hope the Executive Committee will fix it about this time in the year. I would like to accommodate Col. Gould, but I think we ought to go there to do some work.



*Mr Brumbaugh*: I move a vote of thanks to the presiding officer, to the Corresponding Secretary, and all of the officers, and especially to those two officers who have gone to so much trouble and spent so much time in arranging for this Convention.

Col. Gould of Erie is called to the Chair to put the motion and it is agreed to.

*President Snyder*: I thank you all for the kindness you have shown to me.

Upon motion of Col. Gould of Erie the Convention here adjourned to meet at Erie, at such time as the Executive Committee shall fix.

On Thursday morning, October 15th, about 100 members of the Association visited Mt. Penn in company with Mr. Reiser and other Berks County authorities. The party assembled at the foot of the mountain and had a delightful ride over the Gravity Road to the summit. After spending an hour or so there the party assembled in the dining room of the Mt. Penn Hotel and enjoyed a very elegant lunch that had been arranged for by the Directors of the Poor of Berks County. After lunch an informal meeting was held, President Snyder presiding; remarks were made pertaining to the work of the Association, and a vote of thanks returned the Berks County authorities for their kind attention and many courtesies shown. At 2 o'clock the party returned to the city.

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APPENDIX.

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CONSTITUTION.

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ARTICLE 1. This organization shall be known as the "Association of the Directors of the Poor of the State of Pennsylvania."

ART. 2. The members of this organization shall consist of the Directors, Guardians and Overseers of the Poor of the several Poor Districts of the State, and all who have at any time served as such; the officers of all Alms-Houses in the State; the members and officers of the Board of Public Charities; Superintendents and Managers of the several Insane Hospitals and the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-Minded children; the officers or delegates of all Reformatory, Charitable and Benevolent Institutions or Associations.

ART. 3. The object of the Association shall be that of investigating and considering all questions concerning pauperism and dependency, to devise means for the prevention of the same, to suggest legislation, to establish a personal acquaintance between the Directors of the Poor of the several Districts, and so far as possible have a comparison of their different systems of management.

ART. 4. Its officers shall consist of a President, four Vice Presidents, two Secretaries, one Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected annually, and hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and have signified their acceptance of the office.

ART. 5. Their several duties shall be such as usually pertain to those official positions, and they shall be governed by such parliamentary rules as are usually recognized.

ART. 6. The Association shall hold annual meetings at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the members at a regular meeting.

ART. 7. The President, the Vice Presidents and Secretaries shall constitute a Permanent Executive Committee to arrange business and make all the arrangements necessary for each succeeding meeting.

ART. 8. The Treasurer shall pay out of the funds of the Association only on the order of the President, countersigned by one of the Secretaries.

ART. 9. The Treasurer shall submit his account at each meeting, which shall be audited by a committee appointed for the purpose.

ART. 10. The expenses necessary for the holding of each meeting shall be assessed on each Poor District represented, which shall be paid to the Treasurer.

ART. 11. Any person interested in the work of the Association will be admitted as an honorary member by a vote of the active majority present,

ART. 12. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting, by a majority vote of the members present.

The following articles were printed in the *Pittsburgh Dispatch* on October 5, 7, and 10, 1891, and are referred to on page 107 of the proceedings.

(*Pittsburgh Dispatch*, October 5, 1891.)

COST OF PAUPERISM IN A SCORE OF COUNTIES OF THE  
STATE UNDER A SYSTEM WHICH IS A  
RELIC OF BARBARISM.

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In over 400 Townships the Poor are Practically Sold at Auction. Much Illness and Many Burials where this Method is Pursued, thereby Adding to the Expense. Figures that are truly Startling.

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(No. 1.)

I have been investigating one of the worst evils in Pennsylvania. It is the dangerous policy pursued by many of the counties in dealing with their paupers. Few persons have any idea of the ruinous results growing out of the operation of the antiquated poor law of 1836—ruinous alike to the taxpayer and pauper. To thoroughly sift these, and bring them before an intelligent and advanced public, the *Dispatch* commissioned me to travel wherever the work took me. I did not have to go far, however, to discover a startling condition of affairs.

In Armstrong county \$25,738 is being spent on the poor this year. In Blair county only \$15,859 of a poor tax was necessary. The paupers of Armstrong county came from among a population of 46,747, while the population of Blair county is very much greater, viz., 70,866. Why is it that with not much more than half the number of inhabitants, Armstrong must raise \$10,000 more poor tax than Blair?

A COMPARISON OF COUNTIES.

Butler county has raised this year \$20,877 poor tax, and Butler has a population of 55,339 human beings to create the circumstances under which some people will always be poor. Yet on this same Pennsylvania soil there is Northampton county, with an aggregate of 84,220 inhabitants to create the same state of society by which the more unfortunate of us will be underneath. In the natural order of things, you would

suppose that Northampton's pauperism would cost more than Butler county's, but Northampton had only to levy enough tax this year to raise \$16,000, nearly \$5,000 less than Butler.

One more instance, that of Clearfield county. The paupers of that hardy district will be supported with \$44,420, raised from among 69,565 people. Six hours' ride from there you will step off the cars in Lancaster county with its populous city of Lancaster. Including that city, the county has a population of 149,095, and there the paupers must certainly be as numerous in proportion. But Lancaster county only found it necessary this year to tax the people \$47,000 for the care of the unfortunate brothers and sisters its active competition produced. That is only \$2,600 more than Clearfield county raised, and yet Clearfield has much less than half as many inhabitants.

#### A REMARKABLE EXAMPLE.

The foregoing are among the larger counties. Here is a remarkable sample from among the smaller ones : Elk county has taxed its citizens this year, \$13,990 to support the poor, and that had to be raised among a population of 22,230. Perry county—"Little Perry" they call it in the legislature—only taxed its people \$6,031, and it goes Elk county 4,000 better in population. Where would you rather live? In Perry, of course, where you would see more people from your window, and not have to pay such high taxes.

The sum of \$13,990 for the poor in Elk county! Think of it! Why, across in Cambria county, where 66,375 people reside, and where they had a flood not long since that swept out of existence all the purses, jewelry and bank-books of most of the people, the poor-tax last year was only that figure—\$13,321, to be exact, and that is a trifle less than Elk's levy.

Why this striking difference? Something in our social condition must be seriously out of joint—what is it?

#### WITH THE OVERSEER PLAN.

A question to be clearly answered must be clearly asked, and, to make the outline of the situation all the more distinct, before attacking its foundations, I wish to submit two groups of counties which I have prepared with due regard for accuracy. The counties in which the ancient



system of township overseers of the poor is still in force, either in whole or in parts of counties, I have embraced in the first group, which is as follows :

COUNTIES.	1891.	1890.	Popu- lation.
Armstrong.....	\$ 25,738 19	\$22,800 00	46,747
Butler.....	20,877 07	18,500 00	55,339
*Center.....	21,000 00	19,500 00	43,269
Columbia.....	31,786 04	20,305 85	36,832
*Carbon.....	36,000 00	34,000 00	38,624
Cameron.....	3,574 00	2,550 00	7,238
*Clarion.....	22,500 00	21,389 87	36,802
Clearfield.....	44,420 57	41,873 73	69,565
Elk.....	13,990 00	11,406 00	22,239
Fulton.....	1,246 57	1,364 99	10,137
*Indiana.....	22,982 38	20,000 00	42,175
Jefferson.....	13,604 17	11,000 00	44,005
Juniata.....	10,558 32	11,533 28	16,655
Lawrence.....	19,705 71	22,949 40	37,517
Monroe.....	9,302 36	8,000 00	20,111
Montour.....	10,533 40	11,145 07	15,645
Potter.....	9,051 28	7,814 60	22,778
Pike.....	3,228 95	4,304 64	9,412
Sullivan.....	3,706 43	3,891 87	11,620
*Snyder.....	8,000 00	7,000 00	17,651
Susquehanna.....	21,603 89	21,029 20	40,093
*Union.....	9,000 00	8,500 00	17,820
Wayne.....	17,343 47	16,820 25	31,010
Wyoming.....	4,274 69	6,707 00	15,891
Totals.....	\$384,027 49	\$354,385 75	709,275

The counties marked with a star are not official, but are estimated from such good sources as to give them nearly the same value as the others. All other of the counties are officially recorded here, the figures being taken from the returns which the various County Commissioners have been making within the last month or two to the Secretary of Internal Affairs.

## UNDER THE ALMSHOUSE SYSTEM.

The second group I have collated is composed of counties having the County Almshouse system. It is as follows :

COUNTIES.	1891.	1890.	Popula- tion.
Adams.....	\$ 12,350 00	\$ 11,100 00	33,486
Blair.....	15,859 63	15,359 74	70,866
Bedford.....	11,000 00	11,000 00	38,644
Bucks.....	10,500 00	12,000 00	70,615
*Cambria.....	13,321 44	13,321 44	66,375
Chester.....	27,116 32	32,012 11	89,377
Dauphin.....	28,000 00	28,000 00	96,977
Franklin.....	17,162 51	16,868 02	51,433
Greene.....	7,940 00	7,511 79	28,935
Huntingdon.....	9,675 00	11,060 00	35,751
*Luzerne.....	69,000 00	69,341 61	201,203
Lancaster.....	47,000 00	47,962 75	149,095
Mercer.....	22,353 10	23,000 00	55,744
Montgomery.....	29,713 74	28,126 59	123,290
Northampton.....	16,000 00	16,000 00	84,220
Perry.....	6,031 79	7,450 00	26,276
Venango.....	37,706 06	32,000 00	46,640
Warren.....	4,570 00	4,570 00	37,585
Washington.....	19,401 10	18,887 17	71,155
*Westmoreland.....	31,000 00	31,000 00	112,819
*York.....	31,000 00	31,000 00	99,489
Totals.....	\$465,700 69	\$467,571 22	1,589,975

The startling picture these two tables show is this : Twenty-one counties which own Almshouses for their poor, and possessing an aggregate population of 1,589,975 people on which to draw for the money necessary to the support of those Almshouses, had only to raise a poor tax this year of \$465,700.

## THE BIG DIFFERENCE IN COST.

But 24 other counties, operating under the pernicious system of township overseers, possessing no county almshouses, and having only an aggregate population of 709,275 to raise taxation from, assessed and collected the immensely disproportionate sum of \$384,027.

Turn it around so that the light will strike it at another angle, as, for instance, hide the two counties of Lancaster and Adams from view. Then you have the sum of \$385,350 with which the Directors of county almshouses support the poor in a territory where the population is 1,406,494. With just half that number of inhabitants the other 24 counties burden the taxpayers with exactly the same sum, round numbers. Which is easiest, for 1,406,495 people to raise \$385,027 or for 709,275 people to raise the same \$385,027? And, generally considered,

the 709,275 people who raised the sum this year are inhabitants of an agricultural region, while the odd million who paid the same sum represent the interests which mass wealth in the hands of men and should make it easier for a few persons to pay taxes than the many.

#### A HORDE OF OFFICIALS.

Come back to the case of Armstrong and Blair counties. The one, working under the provincial plan of the Act of 1836, has to pay wages to 66 overseers of the poor, 39 attorneys, 39 physicians, and numerous livery stables, representing the 39 townships of Armstrong county. The other county, acting as a parent to the poor of all the townships, and housing them under one common roof, pays the salary of one superintendent, his few assistants, one physician perhaps, and raises much of their own food.

That is why Armstrong, with not much more than half as many taxpayers as Blair, pays \$10,000 a year more for its poor—or, it would be more proper to say, in reaching its poor. Pity the poor when it gets the little that is left after that grand distribution is made.

The counties which still cling to the faulty poor law have from 400 to 500 townships. Each township will average two overseers, and in half the counties each township has a yearly contract with an attorney by the year, another contract with a physician by the year, countless other contracts with merchants to fill orders given to out-door relief patients, the Justice of the Peace in a township entitled to a fee of from 25 cents to \$1 for every order that a pauper is compelled to get from him before the overseers will consent to look into his case; and besides all this

#### THERE IS CONSTANT LITIGATION

between the townships over disputed paupers, each trying to foist them on the other, ending in big bills of extras from the attorneys employed, constant "removals" of the disputed paupers in hired conveyances from one township to another until the question of his legal settlement is settled—which, in several instances, resulted in totals of expenses larger than what would have kept the disputed paupers throughout their natural lives. A pencil and tablet in anyone's hands will quickly demonstrate how outrageously expensive this cumbersome system is, and you will readily see why, by obliterating township lines and providing a common county roof for the poor of all townships, with but one set of officers, the 21 counties I have cited are able to provide for the unfortunate crust of a society of 1,400,000 with the same \$384,000 which 550 townships extravagantly waste on the scavengery of only \$709,275 people.

Is this the charity for which the taxpayers gave their money? Do the worthy poor get the most of it, or the little end of it? In the articles that are to follow in these columns, this week, startling instances will be related from all sections of the State, which will make it a matter for individual judgment in answering that question.

## FOSTERING PAUPERISM.

Is Pennsylvania fostering pauperism? Glance at the two tables given above and an answer may be found. You would imagine that the populous counties, even where they do operate under the single county almshouse cover, would find each year, with the increase in the general population, a corresponding increase in pauperism, and a consequent raising of expense in maintaining the poor. But the figures tell a surprise. The 1,589,975 people in the territory embraced in one of the tables must have had a proportionately greater increase in legitimate pauperism than the 709,275 of the territory embraced in the other table.

But it seems the cost of taking care of the poor among the million and a half of people was \$467,571 in 1890 and \$465,700 in 1891. That was nearly stationary; if there was no decrease there was practically not much of an increase either. But the 709,275 people had to pay \$384,027 in 1891 as against \$354,385 in 1890, a plain increase of nigh upon \$30,000. And it has been climbing up like that all these years in the counties where township overseers dispense the coin. Why should there be such an enormous difference again in the comparison of the two systems?

Because, if you tell a man or woman when they apply to you for extreme pecuniary assistance that you will have him or her sent to the almshouse, the result in nine cases out of ten, or in 800 out of every 1,000 applications, will be that the applicant will leave you very quickly. They will work for their living rather than go to the poor-house, if work is at all a physical possibility with them.

## ALMSHOUSES RESULT IN A DECREASE.

In counties where the county almshouse is the only possible way public officials can assist mendicants, the result is a vast decrease in the number of so-called paupers. In emptying my note-book this week I will be amply prepared to prove this, and by shameful cases of imposition on the township overseers, show how people, lost to all sense of self-respect, have become demoralized by the chance of so much money per week, or idleness bought for them by so much a week out of the township fund. The policy has created and fostered a generation of drones in Pennsylvania. The overseers, honest as they may be, are powerless to root them out. The law is at fault.

The growth of legitimate pauperism, i. e., poverty through inability to perform labor, or by reason of mental incapacity, can only be judged in the counties where the township system does not exist. The counties where it does exist is the abode of idlers rather than the worthy poor. They cheat God's honestly unfortunate out of their share of sweet charity's offerings.

One more thing I expect to expose in all its abjectness before I have done with this prolific subject. That is the serious question of whether the life of many a pauper is not actually shortened by the miserable food, the imperfect attention, and the over-work he or she receives in



the homes where township overseers place them. When a "charge on the township" cannot be foisted on to some other township or county; when a couple of hundred dollars has possibly been spent on some of them in trying to settle the matter in the courts, and in all other instances whatsoever the overseer has only one recourse under this law of our fore-fathers.

#### SOLD TO THE LOWEST BIDDER.

That is to notify the residents of his township that he has a pauper on hands for whom he will pay boarding. The lowest bidder may have him. He is thus knocked down, literally "knocked down," although it may not be at public auction, to the person who will board him cheapest. The rate paid by overseers in Armstrong county on an average runs from \$1 to \$2 per week. Some counties only average \$1 each.

Who would board a common pauper for even \$2 per week? Only the farmer who is badly in need of money, or a poverty-stricken townsman, would take a pauper into his family for the trivial sum of \$1 and \$2. Would you believe it? there are some families within 40 miles from Pittsburgh who, at the end of a week are able to count that \$2 as nearly all clear profit! They are as poor as the pauper himself. They take him from the overseers to make money off him. What a travesty on charity!

What sort of treatment does a poor, old, decrepit man or woman, fast approaching the twilight of life, get in a domicile given him for that purpose? What nutritious foods, what soft beds, what clean clothes, can be given him there by persons as poor as himself is? What is the effect on his health? With this query in my mind, I glanced through the report of the State Board of Charities for 1889 last night. The statistics there scattered through a score of pages, were never collated with the same thoughts I read them. From reports received by them from the overseers, the Board estimates that in the townships where the overseer system is in vogue there were in that year 5,030 paupers—so-called paupers, and, of course, there must have been some of the genuine article among them.

#### THE COST OF FUNERALS.

In another table they prepared at the time, I find that the expense of attending these 5,000 odd persons with physicians and medicines was \$17,111, and the cost of funerals in that single year \$8,124. In that same report of the Board of Charities I find that the combined population in the almshouses of Pittsburgh, Allegheny City, Allegheny county, Lancaster, Bradford, Schylkill and Berks county was 2,500. The cost of medical attention for that 2,500 was only \$6,300. What is the inference, if \$6,300 will furnish all the medicine for 2,500 paupers in the comfortable dormitories of the county almshouses, while it takes \$17,111 to keep 5,000 poor people under the charge of township overseers alive, to say nothing of the \$8,124 in addition for funerals? The question

naturally arises, doesn't the disproportionate cost of medicines for the 5,000 indicate impaired health, or does it indicate a waste of money by the multiplied-physician machinery? In either case the evil is apparent. The matter in all its phases will be fully ventilated in the forthcoming papers.

L. E. STOFIEL.

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#### AN EFFETE SYSTEM.

The fact that the old system of farming out paupers under the direction of overseers was a disgrace to humanity, was discovered a generation ago by intelligent people. That it survives in twenty-one counties of this State is not creditable to the charity or progressiveness of the people of those counties. It has remained for *The Dispatch* to show, as is done by the figures of one of our special writers, published elsewhere, that in clinging to the antiquated and half-civilized method of disposing of the poor the people are imposing on themselves taxation for nearly twice the expenses that are necessary.

The summary of the figures makes this point clear enough. The care of the paupers in a population of 1,400,494 under the almshouse system costs \$385,350; the care of the same element in a population of 709,275 people under the overseer system costs \$385,027, or practically the same. In other words, one system makes the people pay twice as much *per capita* as the other; and yet in twenty-one counties the people cling to that effete and costly method of disposing of their unfortunates who are unable to take care of themselves.

Of course, no one will claim that the almshouse system in all parts of the State is a perfect plan of caring for the destitute. But under the supervision provided by our laws, experience has demonstrated it to be far superior to the farming-out system, into the details of which no supervision can reach. Indeed, the greatest objection to the antiquated method is not so much its increased expense—although that is a very effective argument to the taxpayers—as the revolting feature of putting up unfortunate humanity at auction to be disposed of to the lowest bidder, who then proceeds to get all he can out of them like the purchaser of so many worn out animals.

*The Dispatch* will publish several papers as the result of the investigation into this system. When it is through we will have shown the indisputable wisdom of a complete abolition of it throughout the State.—*Dispatch Editorial.*

(*Pittsburgh Dispatch*, October 7, 1891.)

BREEDING BEGGARS.—PAUPERS IN THIS COMMON-WEALTH MADE SO BY THE LAW IN MOST INSTANCES.

A striking comparison between counties with almshouses and those without them. Shrewd scheme of overseers, by which four charitable charges are kept for the cost of one. Paupers are keepers of paupers.

(No. 2.)

Some illustrations will satisfy the most cursory reader that pauperism is actually promoted and encouraged in a large part of Pennsylvania by the operations of the onerous poor law of 1836. They will show that in distributing the public poor funds in pensions and doles, alms-askers are demoralized, and fast develop into deceiving, lying, idle and vicious members of society. M. F. Black is at present one of the overseers of the poor in Manor township, Armstrong county. He said to me:

There is a low class of people in every community that try to get the best of the overseers. The men are drinkers and idlers, and their wives, though generally able-bodied, are too lazy to work either. In the neighborhood of almost every broken-down iron furnace along the various railroads, or at abandoned coal pits, you will generally see a lot of deserted shanties. Such families as I have described take possession of these vacant houses, and, although, they may be perfect strangers to us, or even foreigners, all they need do under the poor law, is to pay \$10 rent in those houses in the course of a year and to stay within the township 12 months. That decides the question of their settlement, and they can become a charge upon the township without dispute.

THE USUAL PROGRAMME.

By the time the year is out, the husband has generally disappeared. He will not be sued by his wife for desertion, for he has only gone far enough away to be out of sight when she makes application for relief. With no visible means of support, and a house certainly bearing every mark of poverty, there is no other alternative for us than to give her relief. That settles the husband in his determination to loaf, and whether he gets any of the aid we give his wife or not, he continues in idleness, no good to this community.

Referring to the poor law of 1836, I found Mr. Black's statement to be correct. Section 9, part 3, says:

A settlement may be gained in any district by any person who shall bona fide take a lease of any real estate of the yearly value of \$10, and



shall dwell upon the same for one whole year and pay the said rent.

That, certainly, is an easy condition to get a foothold in a township or borough. The next step such idlers may take in reaching the poor funds is to go before two Justices of the Peace and "swear themselves on the township," as it is called. That means an affidavit that they are poor and impotent, in destitute circumstances, and unable to provide for children, or for a parent or themselves. The Justice assumes no responsibility, but, leaving it to the overseer to decide, if he wishes to, whether the man or woman's oath is good, writes out the necessary order on the overseer and hands it to the applicant, receiving in fees from 25 cents to \$1.25 out of the township poor funds.

#### MUST OBEY THE LAW.

"We never refuse to support a man if he is able to work," says Martin Yetter, an overseer in Smithfield township, Monroe county. "We dare not refuse. We feel we have to do it if he has an order from two Justices, that is required by law."

This shows that the simple orders of Justices, given without investigation, are not always looked up, though the printed form of that order from the magistrate invariably reads: "If you find the circumstances to be as represented, etc."

Kittanning was overrun with paupers a few years ago. The town cut loose from Armstrong county in its poor system, and buying a farm, established a poorhouse upon it.

"What was the result?" I asked Frank King, one of the Kittanning Directors, last week.

"Before we had the poorhouse there were 125 charges on the borough of Kittanning," he replied, "and, now, there are only eleven paupers whom the borough has to support."

Manor township adjoins Kittanning, and it still lets out its paupers to the lowest bidder. Result: Kittanning, a populous town, eleven paupers; Manor township, a farming community, sixteen paupers.

The city of New Castle sickened of the beggar breeding system and built itself a poorhouse. Out of the returns of tax just made by the Commissioners of Lawrence county, I find that New Castle, with a population of 11,600, raised a poor tax a \$6,691, this year. In the same county the townships of North Beaver, Mahoning, Pulaski, Slippery Rock, Shenango, and West Castle had to raise \$8,616. The population of these six townships is several hundred less than New Castle, and yet they had many more paupers than the well-built-up town.

#### A STRIKING COMPARISON.

According to the report of the State Board of Charities for 1889, Indiana county, with a population of 42,175, had 341 paupers, while Lancaster county, with a population of 149,095, only reported 330 paupers. Indiana still clings to the township overseer system, while Lancaster makes its paupers go to one common almshouse.



Grouped together, fourteen of the counties which own almshouses, and which obliterate township lines in caring for the poor, present the following exhibit :

	Paupers.	Popu- lation.
Beaver.....	79	50,077
Bedford.....	61	38,044
Berks.....	281	137,327
Blair.....	50	70,866
Bucks.....	175	70,615
Cambria.....	60	66,375
Chester.....	169	89,377
Crawford.....	95	65,324
Fayette.....	153	80,006
Lancaster.....	330	149,095
Mercer.....	80	55,744
Somerset.....	74	37,317
Washington.....	142	71,155
Westmoreland.....	170	112,819
Totals.....	1,919	1,094,141

Only nine of the counties which have no general almshouse, and which are working under the cumbersome system of township overseers, when grouped together, give this result :

	Paupers.	Popu- lation.
Armstrong.....	231	46,747
Butler.....	277	55,339
Clarion.....	332	36,802
Clearfield.....	409	69,565
Indiana.....	341	42,175
Jefferson.....	216	44,005
Juniata.....	190	16,655
Monroe.....	122	20,111
Snyder.....	136	17,651
Totals.....	2,254	349,150

#### WHAT THE TABLES PROVE.

The above figures are selected at random from among the statistics gathered by the State Board of Charities in 1889. The totals show that the almshouses in a territory inhabited by over 1,000,000 of people have only 1,919 paupers. And in a region where only 349,150 people live, the township overseers are burdened with 2,254 so-called paupers. Accepting the doctrine that pauperism is a constitutional social disorder, one of the above tables prove that it is infectious and spreads rapidly under favorable conditions, while the other table is a plain argument that, like other infections, it disappears under proper regulations.

"We have lots of paupers that won't work," testified Andrew Rhuhl, overseer of the poor in Buffalo township, Center county, before the State Commission appointed a year ago on this subject. "We support able-bodied men who won't work. We can't compel them to work. We have about six of those. They are from twenty-five to forty-five years of age. Wesley Stahl, one of these, is thirty years of age, has four or five children, and never does a day's work. We pay his house-rent and give him provisions. We pay his \$25 per year rent. Paupers would oppose going to the poorhouse."

Mr. Catherman, overseer of Lewisburg borough, in the same county, said to the Commission: "Have some able-bodied paupers. One family has been a charge on us a long time. If we had a poorhouse we would not have half as many paupers. A great many would not go."

An attorney of Lewisburg, Mr. Linn, resorted before the Commission to an argument in favor of the township overseer system, saying:

The wants of many people are relieved without degradation by the kind-hearted overseers. The present system supplies their wants better. The plan of boarding out paupers is much better than keeping them in an almshouse. The almshouse might chase off a great many paupers, but that is not the idea of the poor laws. The poorhouse is a barbarous test of pauperism. My views on this subject are tinctured by "Oliver Twist." I read it when young and it has always colored my views of the poorhouse.

#### PAUPERS KEPT BY PAUPERS.

The very next man who followed Attorney Linn before the Commission was an ex-overseer of the same town, Mr. Slifer. He gave some startling facts.

Farmers do not take paupers to board under the present plan. A man almost as poor as the pauper takes them. Paupers in townships are pretty badly taken care of. The overseers pay \$1 a week to a man to board the pauper. The man who keeps the pauper usually makes about \$4 a week. They all live on it, and the pauper gets the short end. Under the present system the children of paupers almost always become paupers. They do not attend school much. They have no books. It is considered a useless expense. It is hard to get places for children. I suppose there are 100 pauper children here. The influence of helping parents makes children expect the same thing. The people thought I was too easy on paupers. The overseer who was on the board with me advertised in the paper that by establishing a soup house he could keep the paupers for forty-eight cents per week. The people demanded a soup house, then, and it was tried for six months but stopped. The paupers had got tired of soup and started begging. We spend \$3,500 a year on the paupers here. If we had an almshouse we would have few paupers. Township overseers take good care to get the very lowest bidders. It saves the rich, and they don't care for the poor.

This frank admission was made by Samuel Keiser, the overseer of West Buffalo township, when he appeared before the Commission:

Overseers sometimes take a man into their own home and make a little out of his boarding. We board our paupers in private families and pay \$1 per week for each. Overseers hunt somebody willing to keep a pauper. He drives out and finds the place where he can be kept the cheapest. Some of the people who keep paupers are farmers, but usually they are kept by the laboring class.

### OVERSEERS AFTER THE MONEY.

I have no reason to believe that the majority of the hundreds of township overseers still holding office are anything else than honest. But the system they are working under is so loose that it affords every opportunity for questionable transactions. That an overseer could consent to accept a pauper as a boarder in order to make something out of him is incomprehensible, and yet there is the above statement for it. The Commission also came across the same thing in Monroe county, where an overseer, who testified before them, was found to be boarding a pauper himself "whom he allowed to work a little for him if he cared to."

In my own investigation I met with one overseer who explained to me how some years ago plenty of overseers kept store and drawing up orders for provisions for paupers to be paid for out of the township fund, filled themselves. "Of course," concluded this overseer, "this is no longer allowed by law, but it is no harm where we happen to have several barrels of flour or potatoes on hand to fill these orders ourselves."

So loose is the system that it is rarely the case that a township ten miles from another township of the same county has any knowledge of what tax millage is necessary there. I find a remarkable lack of uniformity in the poor tax millage within one county. In Indiana county, for instance, it runs anywhere from 1 to 5½ mills in the various townships. In Armstrong it varies from 6 mills in one township down to 3 or 1 in another. In Center county, in Butler county, in Clarion and in Elk the most wonderful difference exists. Within a single township the tax millage is fixed, the money when raised dispersed, and the wages of the overseers fixed, contracts with attorneys, doctors and liverymen drawn up, and orders for out-door relief given out without any outside supervision from county or State authorities.

Township auditors are lax about making any report whatever to the County Court House, and, as the Commissioner of Armstrong county confessed to me: "It was an awful hard job to get any reports from them, and the returns we sent to Harrisburg last month omit several townships for that reason."

### FIGHTING OVER PAUPERS.

This army of attorneys employed in the 18 or 20 counties of Pennsylvania where the old law still operates are necessary to fight "settlement cases." Mr. Silvus, overseer in Manor township, Armstrong county,



told me of one which his township has pending in the courts. It is a dispute over a pauper with Allegheny City.

"Who has the pauper in the meantime?" I asked.

"Oh, he's up in Sharon, Mercer county, being kept by his son."

That is a good specimen of very many of the legal fights ensuing to foist one pauper on to another township or county. This pauper is no longer a pauper, and yet the expense over him goes on in the courts. There is one authenticated case in the central part of the State, where the pauper died, pending a decision of his case in the courts. In scores of instances I could show where enough money has been spent in litigation between townships to have kept the disputed paupers five and ten years of their lives.

This thing has made township overseers in many counties over-zealous to keep people out of their districts who they think are likely to become charges on the district. This was carried so far in one of the eastern counties a year or two ago as to compel a man, who had commenced the poultry business on a small scale, to pack up and move to another county at once. He would have been able to pull through with his business all right, if this high-handed act had not been perpetrated.

In Lewisburg, Center county, it is stated that the overseers of some of the interior townships find it cheaper to send paupers into that town, pay a trivial rent for them one year and thus establish their claim to support from the borough, rather than pay \$2 per week the year around in the township for their board.

#### A REMINDER OF SLAVERY.

Alexander Williams, a colored man, moved into Park township, Armstrong county, where he earned a living for himself and his family. The overseer of Park township concluded that he would eventually become a charge on their community, and to prevent this expense, they removed him under an order of removal to Gilpin township, where they said he had a legal settlement. Williams had never been a charge on the township, and the first notice that he had of the proceeding was when he was informed that he and his family had to go to Gilpin township and they were all removed there too, Williams stating that it reminded him of old times when he was a slave.

Are paupers well treated under the boarding house system? It is impossible to conclude that they are. I know of so many instances where the persons who take them to board "on the lowest bid," are as poor as the pauper themselves, and where the money is an object to them, that the very food they get to eat is an argument against the plan. The families are generally of one or two classes, viz: a laborer to whose weekly wages of \$4, \$5 and \$6 per week \$2 additional from the poor tax makes an inexplicable temptation; or else a family who, by taking a pauper into their family, will receive a servant or man-of-all-



work about the place, with \$2 or \$1 per week for his board, whereas the only other way they could get such a servant or man would be to hire one and pay him or her so much a week and furnish boarding for nothing.

#### SOME EXCEPTIONAL OVERSEERS.

The overseers furnish clothing, and in Manor township, of Armstrong county, the overseers are of the more conscientious class, maintaining a strict personal supervision over the paupers in the homes where they place them. But that cannot be said of all overseers.

Martin Yetter, overseer in Smithfield township, in Monroe county, told the State Commission :

Suppose I have a pauper at your house keeping at \$1.50 per week, and this man says, "I will keep him for \$1." Then, of course, it is my business to take him there. The way we find the cheapest and best place is to let everybody in the township know. We know everybody in the township. As soon as there is a pauper on our charge you would be surprised how soon it goes through the township. Everybody knows it and comes to us and makes this offer. Because they all have to pay for him, and they want to keep him as cheap as possible. We have generally got to have them kept by the same kind of people they are. The money we pay them for boarding paupers is really a part of the master or mistress' revenue, and not a matter of charity.

Thomas Shively, overseer of Pocono township, Monroe county, told the Commission :

One pauper is kept by his son. For him we pay \$1.50 per week. He can't work at anything. His son is not worth anything. He works by day's work—a laborer. We haven't many paupers now. One of them died last winter. We had seven or eight last year back, but they died off, and I don't think there are any young ones coming on.

#### A VERY SHREWD SCHEME.

Another overseer, asked why he boarded a pauper with a family of three whom he said were as poor as the pauper himself, replied : "If we didn't board him there, we would have to take charge of the other three themselves as charges." In other words, this shrewd overseer makes the \$1.50 per week answer for the public relief to four persons—37 cents and a fraction apiece each week. Does it help them?

In Armstrong county I found many cases last week where a son is paid \$2 per week for the board of his father ; a mother receives \$1.50 per week from the overseers for the board of her daughter ; or \$1 is given a whole family for the care of an aged grandparent. "We keep the family together," the overseers tell me, "and if we didn't double up that way we would have to pay so much apiece for them in other families."

Is "keeping the family together," under such circumstances wise economy or true charity? Not only does it encourage them to expect

the weekly allowance of money, but they get little substantial profit out of the pittance. It is one reason why medical bills and funeral expenses are higher under the antiquated system than by the county almshouse protection, with its substantial foods, plenty of them, and comfortable home life. How quickly some of these families would look for light employment if told that the almshouse is their only refuge if they needed permanent help.

L. E. STOFIELD.

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(*Pittsburgh Dispatch*, October 10, 1891.)

### CARING FOR PAUPERS.

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A Pittsburger's plan of relief from the evils of the present system. Views of Robert D. McGonnigle to be put in practicable form before Poor Directors of the State. He proposes an entirely new law.

Next Wednesday the State Association of Poor Directors will officially notice and discuss the *Dispatch's* complete exposure of the evils growing out of the operations of the poor law of 1836. The organization is composed of Poor Directors in most all the counties of Pennsylvania. This is their seventeenth annual meeting. It will be held at Reading, beginning on Tuesday and lasting until Thursday evening. Mr. Robert D. McGonnigle, of this city, will be one of the delegates to represent Pittsburgh and Allegheny at the convention.

"I have been intensely interested in the articles which the *Dispatch* printed this week, showing up the expensiveness and inhumanity of the system still in vogue in many counties, to trust to township overseers the care of the poor," said Mr. McGonnigle yesterday. "Something must certainly be done to overthrow the system. Enough has already been shown by the *Dispatch* to convince people of the wisdom of repealing the Act of 1836. I will be in attendance at the State Convention of Poor Directors, in Reading, next week, and I shall advocate immediate steps for reform.

### A PLAN FOR RELIEF.

"I am now formulating a plan which I will get before the convention in the shape of resolutions. It will be for the appointment of a committee of six or seven able lawyers to take hold of this subject, review the testimony taken last year by the State Commission, the exposures made by the *Dispatch* and the skeleton of a new law suggested by the aforesaid State Commission in the early part of the present year; and from them all to formulate the draft of a new State law that will abolish township overseers and compel each county to take charge of the poor of all townships, under proper State supervision.

"This committee," continued Mr. McGonnigle, "could take ample time and extra care with its work, for its report need not be presented until the Poor Directors meet again in State convention, and that would be in October of 1892. Our association could then discuss the report of the committee in all its bearings, and the result would be the draft of a new poor law as nearly perfected as it is possible to get one. This could then be introduced in the State Legislature, which would meet in regular session in the following January.

#### OTHER PLANS TO COME UP.

"Besides this plan which I have outlined, the question will be generally considered at Reading next week. Mr. D. S. Brumbaugh, of Blair county, will read a paper, entitled, 'The Different Systems of Caring for the Poor in This State.' Mr. Brumbaugh is a gentleman conversant with the inefficiencies of the old pauper system in all its phases. I have just received a letter from him, by the way, in which he commends the *Dispatch* articles. They have set people to thinking all over the State.

"Immediately preceding Mr. Brumbaugh's paper, will be an address by E. P. Gould, of Erie, on 'The Work of the Poor Law Commission.'"

Mr. McGonnigle was a member of the State Commission appointed by Governor Beaver to codify the Poor Laws of Pennsylvania. When that Commission got down to work they ran against the same obstacle the State Road Commission was encountering at the same time. Like the innumerable hundreds of laws on roads in this State, there were scores and scores of special acts for counties and townships providing for the care of the poor.

The lack of uniformity involved the Commission in an intricate maze and it was impossible for them to codify anything. Underneath all these special laws were the cumbersome features of the ancient general laws of 1836. In taking evidence in various parts of the State on the results of the operation of this general law, the rottenness of the entire system was uncovered.

#### THE EVIDENCE HELD BACK.

This evidence, however, was never printed on account of no appropriation, and the public did not know the startling facts it contained until *The Dispatch* gained access to them, and pushed the investigation still farther. However, the State Commission made in general terms a report to the Governor, recommending the Legislature of last winter to adopt a new law which they submitted.

Through the haphazard policy of the last Legislature this new act, although printed and placed on the calendar, was lost sight of. It served a good purpose, however, in forming a good basis on which to formulate another law to be presented to the next Legislature.



## UNDER THE STATE CONTROL.

"I believe the State should have supervision over all the counties when they do establish almshouses" said Mr. McGonnigle. "It need not be a new department of State government, however. At present the State Board of Charities is required to visit all almshouses once a year. That is not sufficient. Almshouses should be inspected by State authority at least twice a year, and yet even once a year is scarcely as much time now as the State Board of Charities can spare.

"Its present duties—the supervision of penitentiaries, jails, the study of lunacy and the almshouses—are too heavy. It cannot do justice to all of them. I should say, continue in our new law the supervision of the Board of Charities over the almshouses, but let there be appointed under that Board a separate chief for the Department of Charity, apart from the penal and medical lines of their work. In Massachusetts the same State Board has charge of health, lunacy and charity, but there is a chief, or single head officer for each. Something after the same plan I would advocate for adoption in Pennsylvania."

## THE HALF NOT YET TOLD.

Mr. McGonnigle said that, bad as the state of affairs is which *The Dispatch* has shown up, the half has not yet been told. He knows personally of many instances where the evil of the system is apparent. One he mentioned was a pauper whom Butler county once foisted upon Allegheny City. The city sent him back to Butler as one of their legal inhabitants. He was turned loose on Adams township of that county. Adams township repudiated and drove him off her soil, making Cranberry township take him.

Cranberry rebelled, and at last, after years of litigation in the courts over this one pauper, he is given permanent relief in Cranberry township to-day. But \$500 at least was spent in law over his case. His keeping costs less than \$100 a year, so that if the other \$500 had been given to him instead of lawyers he would have been able to withdraw, perhaps, from charity circles for good.



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THE  
EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL SESSION

OF THE

ASSOCIATION

OF

5400  
Directors of the Floor,

OF THE

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

HELD AT

ERIE, PA., OCTOBER 11TH, 12TH, 13TH, 1892.

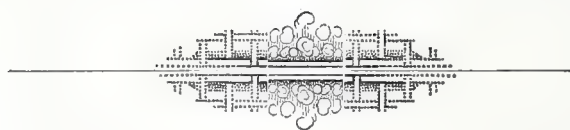
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IRA E. BRIGGS, Stenographer.

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PITTSBURGH:

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1892.



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THE EIGHTEENTH ANNUAL MEETING  
OF THE  
Association of Directors of the Poor,  
OF THE  
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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The eighteenth annual meeting of the Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania, convened in the Court House, at Erie, Pa., at 10 A. M., October 11th, 1892, and was called to order by President Colborn.

*President Colborn* :—This being the place designated, and the time having arrived for calling the Convention to order, we will come to order. We will rise and be led in prayer by Rev. G. W. Cleveland.

*Rev. Cleveland* : (The audience standing.)

Almighty, all-wise, merciful and gracious God, our Heavenly Father, we ask in thy Son's name thy blessing upon this Convention now at its opening and throughout all its proceedings. Thou hast promised us thy direction, on our acknowledging thee in all our ways. Thy servants here assembled and who are assembled from all parts of this great Commonwealth, do acknowledge thee as the only living and true God. We acknowledge our dependence upon thee, and our need of thine all-wise guidance and thine Almighty aid in the management of the great interests committed to our charge; graciously supply all our needs; wilt thou, the God of the poor, the Father of the fatherless, and the helper of those who have no help, preside over the deliberations of thy servants here gathered in council; wilt thou breathe thy Spirit upon them; aid them in devising such measures as will most benefit the afflicted and helpless ones thrown upon their care; lead them on to all needed improvement in the care and management of the charitable institutions of the State, we ask all for Christ's sake. Amen.

A solo was beautifully rendered by Miss Wells, of Erie.

Hon. Charles S. Clarke, Mayor of the City of Erie, introduced to the Convention by Col. E. P. Gould, delivered the following address of welcome, which was received with hearty applause:

*Mr. Chairman and Members of the Association* :—To welcome to our city so distinguished an assemblage of ladies and gentlemen is indeed a pleasure of more than ordinary satisfaction. While we are always glad to welcome visitors to our city and to extend to them the hospitalities of our homes, we are especially pleased to welcome you as the representatives of the organized charities of the Commonwealth having under your care and supervision the charitable institutions of the State. As the guardians of the unfortunates, and as the almoners of the several institutions you represent, a great responsibility rests upon you, and it is eminently proper and wise that you should meet to deliberate upon the subject of bettering the condition of the poor and infirm whom circumstances have placed in your charge.

We deem it an honor that you have selected our city for holding this your Annual Convention, and on behalf of our citizens I acknowledge our appreciation of the honor conferred. We have not forgotten your presence with us a few years ago, and the pleasant recollections of your former visit enhances the gratification we feel in welcoming you here again.

I assure you that our citizens fully appreciate the importance of your Convention, and they trust that in the commingling of thoughts and ideas much may be evolved which will prove of value to you as humanitarians, and aid you in the intelligent performance of your duties.

I am especially pleased to see among you so many of the gentler sex, but am not surprised at this fact, as we know that where sickness and sorrow exist, there will be found the sympathizing care and watchfulness of these ministering angels; and it is eminently proper that in a convention of people representing the charitable institutions of our Commonwealth that the women should hold as prominent a place as the men, and should have an equal voice in deliberating and planning for the improvement of our charities.

It has been said that,

“In faith and hope the world will disagree,  
But all mankind’s concern is charity.”

Charity is the one thing in this world which is not divided into factions, parties or sects, but has for its creed the golden rule of life, and it is refreshing in the midst of all this turmoil and strife, worldly ambition and political heat to turn and see an assemblage of men and women like this, leaving home and personal interests to meet with others that they may plan together how best to carry on the good work in which they are engaged.

It is not my desire to, neither could I direct you in your course of action as a Convention. I only know that your mission here is praiseworthy, and one worthy the admiration of the world, the respect and encouragement of all good citizens, and the approval of our Father in Heaven, who has admonished us to remember, "That the poor ye have with you always."

Again, on behalf of our citizens, I bid you a most cordial welcome, and I have been commissioned by them to extend to you the freedom of the city, the hospitalities of our homes, and bid you enjoy all the attractions and sources of entertainment which it is in our power to provide.

We regret that your Convention could not have been held at an earlier period of the year, as the season is so far advanced that you cannot see Erie in its summer beauty, and we are most likely to have at this season of the year not only poor people but poor weather to claim your attention.

We claim that no other city of its size in the country possesses more sources of attraction and amusement than Erie, especially in the summer time. Situated upon Put-in-Bay, a body of water five miles long and two miles wide, receiving its waters from Lake Erie, we possess not only the finest harbor on the lakes, but our advantages for fishing, hunting, boating and bathing cannot be surpassed. Our drives in and about the city are delightful, passing through a rich and picturesque country, and many of them leading to localities not only closely identified with the early history of our city, but dear to the student of the history of our country.

Our chief pleasure resort is situated at the head of the Bay, and is called Massasanga Point, after the Indian king of that name who reigned there over a hundred years ago. In the waters of the Bay can be seen the remains of the good ship Niagara, upon whose deck the immortal Perry won imperishable fame and renown. Upon the bank of our lake is located the ruins of the old French Fort, and the grave of Mad Anthony Wayne, the hero of the Indian War of 1794.



Our Life Saving Station is always a place of much interest to visitors, and the captain in charge takes pleasure in exhibiting the means provided by the United States Government for the saving of life during storms upon the lake.

Our Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, with its five hundred old veterans, is well worthy of a visit.

The Home of the Friendless, Old Peoples' Home, The Catholic Orphan Asylum, and the Harvest and St. Vincent's Hospitals, are all charitable institutions, a visit to which will prove of especial interest to you.

Of our County House, I can only say that I believe it to be a model one, and governed by conservative men with wisdom and discretion; but as I am not expert in such matters, I can only say go, see and judge for yourselves.

Our Government and Municipal Building are points of interest to which you are most cordially invited.

Time will not permit me to mention all the places of interest in and about the city, nor do I think it necessary for me to do so, as I have no doubt but that the local Committee on Arrangements, as well as our citizens generally, will do all in their power to make our city appear as charming as possible, and your stay among us pleasant.

Again, welcome. We trust that your deliberations may result in great good to the cause of suffering humanity; that your stay among us may be pleasant; and that when your labors are ended, and you return to your homes, you will carry with you pleasant recollections of your visit to this the "Gem City of the Lakes."

At the conclusion of the address of welcome Col. E. P. Gould introduced the Hon. J. F. Downing, of Erie, who spoke as follows:

*Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen:*—I don't know what I can add to the appropriate words of his Honor, the Mayor of our city. I don't know that he included in his welcome the people outside the limits of the city, and if not I desire to appropriate so much of his speech as my own as relates to that, so as to let the welcome spread over the entire county.

It seems unnecessary to add anything in the way of words of welcome, and I hardly know what to say. I am here on the spur of the moment. I am a very busy man, and I left my desk

to come here, without any idea of what my mission really was. I almost wish that my few words might come after some other proceedings, so that I might get some inspiration for the occasion. There was inspiration in the beautiful song we just listened to, and if I could speak as eloquently as the lady sang delightfully it would satisfy me, but that is out of the question. You need to be inspired in your work, I suppose. All kinds of machinery will run down and lose tone, like the clock in your room, unless it is wound now and then. You have to get a little tension, a little power and enthusiasm, and life and zeal; zeal is at the bottom of those great advances in civilization. I have a great deal of faith in men who seem to be ahead of the times; we call them cranks, but they do a great deal of good. They are the leaders in the vanguard of progress. We have had them in the past and will have them in the future. I don't know the leaders in the direction to which your efforts are directed, but there are leaders in this grand work in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and elsewhere, and I suppose there is no work in which we can engage with greater profit to humanity than the great work in which you ladies and gentlemen are engaged. His Honor the Mayor has alluded to the women and their work here. A woman is God's best gift to man. We wouldn't be worth a cent without our wives and daughters. Without the acts of woman we would have no Columbus celebration; if it were not for the act of Isabella, of Spain, Columbus would not have discovered America. So in all our work of humanity and of civilization woman marches to the front, and wherever she lags behind and shows no zeal everything lags. Why, I have to be punched up, myself, in my duties at home, and there are a great many things I wouldn't do if it were not for my good wife. So I welcome in a special degree the women's work in this great endeavor to advance the interests in which you are engaged. It is true that the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania was founded in the spirit of brotherly love, and it is true also that only within recent years we, as a people have realized how much inhumanity to man there has been in our legislation and in our treatment of the unfortunate. In the State of Massachusetts, where I came from, it is only a few years since men were imprisoned for an ordinary debt, and

when their treatment while in prison was an outrage—that is within my recollection there; and it is within my recollection that they sold the poor—or the boarding and caring for the poor—at auction to the lowest bidder, and such has been the system in a great many portions of the country. There has been great progress in this country in recent years, but perhaps no greater progress than the progress of humanity in the making of laws for the care and protection of the poor and unfortunate. And I think we may claim that here in the City of Erie we have made as much advance as in any part of the Commonwealth. We are not particularly proud of it, but are reasonably satisfied. I think we are now entitled to be considered an intelligent and wide awake people, and of a philanthropic disposition. And we expect to improve in this direction. I came to this city in the fall of 1855 from Carlisle in this State, and when I told some of my Massachusetts friends that I was coming to settle here for better or for worse they said “why are you going into that place; it is inhabited by an uncivilized people;” they had heard of the railroad war, and I suppose you have; they thought they were a set of barbarians here. I got here in the night, and I started out to see how many churches and school houses I could find here, and I looked at the court house and after making a survey of the town I made up my mind it was safe to stay and I did stay, and I can say I found as well informed and as well educated and progressive a people here as I had left behind me, either at Carlisle or in Massachusetts, and we have the same class of people here now.

Now it will not do to become weary in well doing, and there is nothing whereby we can better advance the cause of civilization than by uplifting the condition of the poor and unfortunate. We are to make advances in general intelligence and civilization. We haven’t reached the goal yet. We are to go on still further towards the *ultima thule* of progress. But to get that we must pay more attention to those who are dependent on society, and there must be always a percentage of dependent people. I spent the month of August in North Dakota, and while there attended a meeting called for the purpose of listening to the Secretary and General Manager of the Orphan Childrens’ Society. I listened to this man with a great deal of interest, as he recounted what the society



had accomplished and was doing, taking care of the orphan children of that new State, and I was surprised to learn how much they had done; and how much need there was for doing the work they were engaged in. Children without father or mother, out upon those plains, and yet it was a glorious thought to feel that there in that new State they were laying broad the foundation of charity. We are nothing but tinkling cymbals unless charity is at the bottom of our legislation and our efforts. It is from the better feelings of our nature that spring forth the sympathy that we show for the unfortunate.

So do not become discouraged; we all need encouragement; we need to be reminded frequently of our duty, and of our opportunities for doing good.

I have no doubt you will take much satisfaction when by and by you indulge in the reminiscences of the past: when you look back upon the attention, and upon the thought and the self sacrifices that you have made, and as much as in anything that you have done. So go on and carry the banner still higher and higher, because you are engaged in the noblest work of man. (Applause.)

*The President:*—In behalf of the members of this Convention and of the hearty welcome extended to us, Mr. Lawrence, of Philadelphia, will respond.

*Charles Lawrence, (Superintendent Blockley Almshouse):*

*Mr. Mayor, ladies and gentlemen:*—In thanking you for the kind welcome extended to this Convention, not alone in the words expressed, but in the feeling that accompanied the expression, I desire to extend to you our most heartfelt thanks and keen appreciation. It is fitting that conventions should be held in this great State of ours, wherein those representing the different counties, and townships, and boroughs should come together to see the best manner of ameliorating the sufferings of the poor and unfortunate. These are duties that fall upon all civilized nations. "The poor are always with us," and this State has exemplified to the world that charity is one of the prominent characteristics of its inhabitants.



I have the honor to come from the other extreme of this State, Philadelphia. In that city we have over a million souls. We have an almshouse that to-day has a population of about 3,000 inmates, with about 400 people employed to look after their interests.

They have spoken of the progress of this country and of the improvements made. Let me tell you that when the Indian Chief reigned over the watering place above Erie (Massasauga), when they were selling paupers in the great State of Massachusetts and punished people for debt, before the Declaration of Independence was proclaimed, in the year 1732 the people of Philadelphia established an almshouse for their poor, and they have sustained it ever since. The charities of this State are not confined to localities. It is fitting that this Convention should be at this extreme this year. We come gladly from all parts of the State, not only to formulate better plans to conduct the great work laid down for us to do, but when sickness or distress meets the inhabitants of any part of the Commonwealth you find them responding as quickly as we come here to-day to consult with each other. Go to Johnstown, go south, go anywhere in this country; ask the people of Charleston, S. C., after God inflicted the earthquake upon them who came to their relief, and they will tell you the people of Philadelphia, and that means Pennsylvania. They responded until word came back "we ask no more, we can protect ourselves." That speaks for the charity of Pennsylvania. Mr. Mayor, as one of those who are proud to say he is a Pennsylvanian, I desire to express the thanks of these ladies and gentlemen for the kind welcome extended by the people of Erie: We appreciate it keenly, and we have no doubt the work of this Convention will reflect credit, not alone upon its members and the city of Erie, but upon all the people of the great Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, (Applause.)

Louis C. Colborn, of Somerset, President of the Association, then delivered the following address:

*Ladies and gentlemen, and members of this Association:*—After listening to so excellent an address of welcome, filled with beautiful thoughts and wise suggestions, as well as extending to us such a cordial

greeting and hearty welcome to this city, and also the equally fine response, advancing many new ideas, that this Convention could wisely consider, I feel a hesitancy in offering anything further at this time, but as you have honored me, by selecting me as your President, it would be an act of ingratitude and derelict of duty were I to remain silent. Let me then again return to you my sincere thanks for the honor you have conferred upon me, and I trust I may be able to so discharge my duties that it may be a pleasure to you and reflect credit upon myself. In order to successfully do this, I ask your full and hearty co-operation and sympathy, and should I succeed as well as some of my illustrious predecessors have done I shall feel that my administration has been a successful one, but it should be more. This is an age of advancement and progress, and we should not be satisfied unless at the close of this Convention much shall be accomplished for permanent good in the control and management of the poor of the Commonwealth, and that the general sentiment and verdict, that this has been the best Convention that has ever been held.

“The arrow of him who aims at the sun, will take a higher flight, than his who aims at any terrestrial object.” Let this Convention aim at accomplishing great things, and good results will be achieved.

The Association of the Directors of the Poor has become a permanent institution, the good it has accomplished is seen and felt everywhere. Its influence and resolutions has brought about reforms in poor houses, driven all harsh and severe treatment therefrom, and introduced home and Christian influences that are of lasting benefit and refining to the home.

This Association has awakened an interest in the poor and unfortunate throughout the State; it has elevated poor houses, broadened the views of the people, made liberal hearts, its influence has opened charitable homes, schools for the deaf and dumb, blind, feeble-minded and incorrigible, built and maintained hospitals for the sick, maimed and insane.

Through its influence the vaults of the treasury of the State have been opened and magnificent appropriations have been made, in every department for the relief of the poor and suffering humanity. It is therefore an honor to be a member of this Association. No improper motive can be impugned to any of you. The duties are purely a duty of love, almost without compensation; no one has any political ax to grind or preferment to gain.

I have said this that all may have a higher appreciation of what it is to be a member of this Association. After the close of the meeting at Reading it has been my greatest solicitude to have this meeting surpass all former meetings; immediate steps were taken to bring about this result.

The Committee appointed for the revising of the Poor Laws was made after careful consideration and consultation with various members of the Association, and urged upon them the importance of an early meeting, and finishing of their work. How wise the selection of the Committee and how well they have done their work, their very excellent report fully testified.

Circular letters were sent out to most all the members of the Convention notifying them of the Convention and what was expected to be accomplished.

A very interesting and complete program was carefully prepared, a reply was received from all named on the program, with but several exceptions, that they would be present and respond to the assignment of the Committee before the same was sent out, and it is earnestly expected that all have come prepared. First, let me call your attention to the Report of the Committee on the Revision of the Poor Laws. This is an important question and affects every Poor District in the State. It should have the support of every member until it is enacted into a law, for in my judgment it is the only solution out, of working in unity and harmony for the common good of the poor, the jealousies, the strifes, the desire to lord it over our neighboring counties and the fear we are keeping some other county's poor, are questions constantly arising under the various special and general laws, keeping many districts in constant turmoil, and often forgetting the duties they owe to the unfortunate poor. Let every one give it their undivided attention and support.

The program as prepared, of which all have a copy, is full of many new and serious questions that affect the entire management of the poor, and will be the means of solving many intricate questions. The program opens up with "The Cause and Prevention of Pauperism," and ends with the question of that noted personage "The Tramp." You will have presented to you insanity in all its forms, and how and when they should be treated and placed; "The Benefits of a General Law," the subject of "Industrial and Feeble Mind Schools," "Amusements and Literature for the Poor," "Immigration and its Effects," "The Duties and Responsibilities and Moral Qualifications of Directors of the Poor."



You will have pictured in all its beauty or otherwise, an ideal Almshouse, and last but not least, you will hear from those, who are a part of the bone and sinew of this Convention, "The Childrens' Aid Society," who rescue many a beautiful gem from evil and wicked influences, and place them under the care of home and Christian influence, and thus rear many a child up to be a pride to their country and a defender of it in peril. In fact, the program is made up of questions that deserve your closest consideration and best thoughts, and when we say to you, that those to whom they are assigned, are of so well known ability that they will give you such an analysis of the questions, upon which you can easily and intelligently act, besides being highly entertained by a grand literary treat. I am only repeating what you all know, therefore, I would impress upon you the importance of hearing all of them, you cannot afford to miss a single session.

And now members of this Convention, meeting as we do in this historic and beautiful city, almost within the sound of America's greatest wonder "The Niagara Falls," and facing one of her great commercial highways, whose surface is dotted over with craft of every description bearing to market the manufactures of her many industries that line her shores. Let us keep uppermost in mind the object of our coming together, that of caring for and elevating humanity. No higher motives could prompt the assembling together of any people.

To-morrow, October 12th, is the anniversary of the discovery of our fair land, America, "land of the free and the home of the brave." "A home for the friendless and an asylum for the oppressed." When we look back four hundred years, and compare our loved country with the old and established nations of the earth, and compare its growth and prosperity with their's, we are ready to exclaim in the language of the Psalmist of old, "Surely the Lord hath not dealt with any other nation like this." All hail! Columbia! All honor, Columbus, the scholar, the adventurer and discoverer, may his name ever be honored as long as time shall last. We live in a wonderful age, in a country upon which the eye of the enlightened world is fixed. Our government has no parallel. Ancient republics were and modern monarchies are, but the mockeries of human rights. We stand alone; no nation can be called upon to give us light. It receives existence from wisdom, purity and action, which seem to have come down from heaven; it must depend upon these for its continuance.



No nation has ever been called upon so expressively as this, to make man proud of himself, as a man.

The story of our doings will descend to future ages. We can now readily understand why Benjamin Franklin, in the last years of his life, said that he only had one regret, and that was that he did not live fifty years later.

Look abroad over this country; mark her extent; her wealth; her fertility; her boundless resources; the giant energies which every day develops, and which she seems already bending on the fatal race—tempting, yet always fatal to republics—the race for physical greatness and aggrandisement. Behold that continuous and mighty tide of population, of every tongue, from every country, rushing in on our shores, sweeping through our valleys to the west, climbing every fertile ridge, dotting every green nook and vale with human habitation; waking up industry and civilization.

Many of these that come we bid a cordial greeting, knowing that in time they will make good citizens, while many, yea, too many, are allured here for the sake of gain, and not with the intention of becoming citizens of this country, and frequently among this number that come are dumped with them the poor, who peradventure were not able to provide for themselves at home, the lame, halt and blind, who were no doubt objects of charity in their own country, whose passage, I have every reason to believe, was paid by officials to rid themselves of their support. Already one of the most disturbing questions of this day in our land, and one that has caused so much trouble and clashing between labor and capital is the importation or immigrating of what is called pauper labor.

What safe-guard do we have against the dangers which must inevitably grow out of so vast and promiscuous an influx of people, from being burdened by taxation to support many of these helpless creatures, and many more who will eventually become a charge upon the charities of the people.

We boast of our free institutions, and the great and grand provisions of our laws for all classes and conditions of men. We love our free institutions for their inestimable value, and for the rich fruits of liberty, security and prosperity, which they disperse over the whole country. We love them yet more, for the glorious men who moulded them into strength and beauty, and through many years of hard fought battles, in field and senate, exerted every nerve of body and all the energies of their great minds, at the expense of ease and fortune,

and at the peril of their lives, to sustain and defend them. As we venerate those men, on account of the rich inheritance they have transmitted to us, so we venerate the inheritance more highly on account of the illustrious *donors*; their wisdom, eloquence and virtue still survive them, and prove a rich legacy to their posterity.

And now fellow citizens and members of this Convention, while we behold with pride our charitable institutions, and boast of our humane and wise provisions of the laws of our commonwealth, we should not permit them in any sense to become burthensome to the people, and while we have met together, to devise ways and means to better care for the poor, aged, infirm and unfortunate in life, we should not forget that it is just as much our duty to devise ways and means for the prevention of pauperism.

The solution of this question, it seems to me, is readily foreseen, and is the introducing of more Christianity and education in our political and charitable institutions, and among the people.

Washington, the father of his country, in his farewell address said, "That religion is essential to the support of national morality and prosperity." Religion and morality are the indispensable supports to political prosperity. Christianity is one of the safeguards of our charitable institutions.

When the Pilgrims landed upon the inhospitable rocks of New England, their first care was for the preservation and extension of knowledge; civil and religious.

Religion has played a large part in inspiring, organizing and directing the labor of mankind, and it must continue to be a potent economic force. Who shall say what would be the fate of the race if it were possible to extinguish the love of labor, love to the neighbor and love to God.

Greece, once the seat of learning and wisdom, whose Alexander conquered all the nations of the earth and wept because there were no more to conquer; Rome with all her glory and splendor, whose scepter swayed over the nations of the earth, were overthrown and their kingdoms devastated. They lacked Christianity. They wanted true religion. While the flourishing regions of Egypt and Barbary have been sunk to their present state of poverty and degradation through their ignorance. Thus we see that religion and education should go hand in hand.

The Psalmist has said, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." While the Prophet of old has said, "I have not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." The truth of this statement is not questioned, all have witnessed the verity of it. Education broad, sound and correct is the price of liberty.

The appointments of providence, ever watchful for our moral good, the memories and the warnings of experience, become monitors of wisdom in the great school of time.

A resolution passed by this Convention advocating the passage of a compulsory school law, would be a step in the right direction towards securing the desired end. The young could be rescued from ignorance and superstition, and be made useful persons in society. Let this Convention mould into sentiment, and formulate into resolutions, the thoughts and ideas on questions that will be presented to this meeting, so that they may be heralded throughout the Commonwealth as your action, and in time its influence will be felt, and be the means of bringing about many of the reforms needed, and the enactment of such laws as will be for the public good in the administration of the charities of the State.

As we cherish our charitable institutions; as we feel proud of the country that has nurtured and sustained them; as we have a care for the poor and distressed in life, and have sympathy for them, so far as we have a proper regard for the duties of the high offices which we fill, and the objects which have brought us together. As we desire to imitate the example of the blessed Master in administering unto the needy, who said, "I was hungered and ye gave me meat, I was thirsty and ye gave me drink, I was sick and ye visited me, I was in prison and ye came unto me: for inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, you have done it unto me." Let us show by our zeal and energies in the work before us, that we are truly interested in the poor, whom the Master has said, we have always with us.

And now in conclusion, let me say to all, that this is your Convention, for your mutual instruction, let no one keep back any thing that will interest and edify, neither keep silent should anything meet your disapproval.

With again thanking you for the honor conferred upon me, and indulging in the hope that my highest expectations may be realized in this Convention, so that at its close you may say, "It was good for



us to be here," and that we may return to our homes with a higher appreciation of our duties, and that we may carry with us some new thoughts and ideas that will enable us better to discharge our many and onerous duties.

The following programme of business presented by the Committee on Programme, and adopted :

Tuesday, October 11th, 10 o'clock, A. M.—Calling to order. Music. Prayer, Rev. G. W. Cleveland. Address of Welcome, Hon. Chas. S. Clarke, Mayor of Erie. Response, Hon. J. H. Morrison, Esq., Philadelphia. President's address, L. C. Colborn, Somerset, Pa. Enrollment of delegates. Reports. A short and concise written report of each Almshouse, Home or Charitable Institution will be received from each district. These reports may be prepared at home and handed to the Secretary when the district is called. They should embrace name and location of Home or Institution, Board of Directors or Trustees, number in Home, cost maintenance of same, improvements, etc. Appointments of committees. Place of next meeting. On officers. Auditing committee. On Resolutions. Adjournment 12 M.

Afternoon Session, Oct. 11th, 2 P. M.—Prayer. Address, "Care and Prevention of Pauperism," Col. H. M. Boies, Scranton. Address, "Our Organized Charities in connection with the Work of the Directors of the Poor," Dr. J. W. Walk, Secretary, Philadelphia Society for Organizing Charities. Address, "Work of the Association," W. F. Shepard, Esq., Pottsville. Address, "Chronic Insane," Dr. John Curwin, Chairman of Committee of Chronic Insane. Address, Chas. S. Snyder, Philadelphia. Discussion. The above addresses will be open for discussion, concluding with recommendations. Queries. There will be established a query box, and any person desiring to ask any question, or ask for information, may do so by reducing it to writing, and placing same in box, when they will be referred to some one for answering. Fifteen minutes before the adjournment of each session will be devoted to answering the queries. Adjournment, 5 P. M.

Evening Session, 7.30 P. M.—Devoted to the work of Childrens' Aid Societies. Music. Prayer. Opening address, Mrs. H. C. Campbell, Western Pennsylvania Society. Paper, "Children and Home," Mrs. Rebecca B. Chambers, Chester County Society. Address, "Care of Feeble Minded Children," Dr. I. N. Kerlin, Superintendent of Institute for Feeble Minded Children. Address, "Advisability of Establishing a School in Western Pennsylvania for Feeble Minded Children, and asking for Committee to select site for same," D. S. Brumbaugh, Esq., Blair County. Paper, "What should be done with the Children in our Charitable Institutions?" Miss Marie Bishop, Jefferson County Aid Society. Address, "Needed Legislation," Holmer Folks, Superintendent of Childrens' Aid, Philadelphia. Paper, Mrs. W. H. Wise, Oil City. Short Talks: R. D. McGonnigle, Miss C. H. Pemberton, Miss M. Lemoyne, Miss Sue Willard, Mrs. M. A. S. Buffington, Miss Mary Fitch. Reports. Written reports of each Society can be handed to the Secretary as called. Appointment of Committee on Resolutions with reference to work of the Childrens' Aid Society. Song, Mrs. Marie Bishop.



Wednesday Morning Session, October 12th.—Prayer. Address, "Benefits of having one General Law for the Government and Regulation of Poor Houses," David H. Ross, Montgomery County. Report of Committee in charge of the work of the Poor Law Commission, E. P. Gould, Esq., Chairman of Committee. Discussion. Address, "The Mental and Moral Qualifications required by the Superintendents of Almshouses," Rev. R. C. Wolf, Washington County. Adjournment, 12 M.

Afternoon Session.—Prayer. Address, "Immigration," R. D. Layton, U. S. Immigrant Inspector. Address, "How Immigration has affected Paupers and Vagrancy in the State," Charles Lawrence, Superintendent Blockley Almshouse, Philadelphia. Address, "Industrial Schools for Dependent Children," John D. Carr, Fayette County. Address, "Almshouse Literature," Geo. E. Worst, Lancaster County. Address, "Almshouse Amusement," Jno. A. Crawford, Blair County. Reports of Committees: Place of holding next meeting; on officers; Auditing Committee. Adjournment, 5 P. M.

Evening Session.—Prayer. Song, Miss Marie Bishop. Address, "Our Charitable Institutions," A. B. Reiser, Berks County. Paper, "The Duties and Responsibilities of the Directors of the Poor," Geo. Linderman, Pittsburgh, Pa. Paper, "An Ideal Almshouse," Mrs. Francis Swan, Scranton. Address, "The Work of the Board of Public Charities, and its Relation to Almshouses," Cadwallader Biddle, General Agent Board Public Charities. Address, "Out-door Relief and Tramp Questions," Thomas E. Fuller, Franklin County. Report of Committee on Resolutions.

Thursday, October 16th.—This day will be devoted to such work or entertainment as the Committee on Programme and the Local Committee of Arrangements shall present.

The proceedings will be interspersed with vocal or instrumental music, furnished by the Committee of Arrangements, at Erie; also, with select readings.

An Excursion to Niagara Falls will be arranged for Thursday, October 13th, at an hour to be announced later. Fare, round trip, \$1.75.

An opportunity will also be given to all who desire to visit the Almshouse and Soldiers' Home, at Erie.

The enrollment of delegates was here proceeded with, and at this time and during the Convention, the following delegates were enrolled:

ADAMS COUNTY—*Almshouse*—James B. Myers, John A. Oiler, Joseph Sheely, Elias Fissel and wife, Peter C. Stock, William Arch. McClean.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny County Home*—W. H. Guy and wife, Frank Patterson, Jas. F. Robb, W. J. Glenn and wife.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Pittsburgh City Farm*—Geo. Linderman and wife, Geo. Hoffman, Miss Maggie Hale.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny City Home*—Wm. P. Hunke, Wm. Eichenlaub, A. Alston and wife, Robt. D. McGonnigle and wife.

BEAVER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Col. R. Walton, Isaac Minor, Jno. C. Christy, Geo. W. Engle and wife, J. Sharp Wilson.

BEDFORD COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Geo. H. Ickes, Geo. Kerr, A. B. Biddle, J. S. Barefoot.

BERKS COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Samuel C. Deck, Fred. Roland and wife, Tilghman De Long, Adam B. Reiser and wife, John W. Gilbert and wife.

CARBON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—A. S. Monroe, A. M. Neumuller, Samuel Harleman, James McCready, G. F. Wells.

CHESTER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Wm. R. Pardue, John S. Hope and wife, Samuel Wickersham, C. B. Swisher.

CRAWFORD COUNTY—*Almshouse*—G. W. Cutshall, Levi Putnam, Edgar Parch, O. P. Blakeslee.

CUMBERLAND COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Michael Seavers, Jno. H. Rhoads, Henry Mentzer, W. A. Kramer, P. M. Boyer, Thos. N. Smith.

DELAWARE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Charles M. Cheyney, Joseph Leedom, Calvert Cardwell, Wm. Eves.

ERIE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—H. Dunn, B. E. Riblet, Wm. Hopkins, E. P. Gould, M. H. Silverthorn and wife, T. E. Wade, Geo. A. Garrus, M. D., Rev. Geo. Booth.

FAYETTE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Chas. W. Keefer, Wm. Bush, Wm. Handlan, Jno. D. Carr, Mrs. John D. Carr.

FRANKLIN COUNTY—*Almshouse*—A. H. Etter and wife, Wm. Ferguson, Geo. W. Immer, Geo. B. Foltz.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—C. S. Heeter, E. O. Heck, H. C. Crownover.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Hillside Farm*—Mrs. Frances B. Swan, Daniel Williams, P. J. Murphy, John B. Gillespie, Charles Tropp, Wm. Langstaff, Geo. W. Beemer, John Gibbons.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Ransom Poor House*—Ira C. Atherton, James Jones, I. S. Porteus, M. D.

LANCASTER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—E. H. Hershey, J. S. Strine, Wm. Good, D. O. Kready, H. W. Graybill, C. Herr, Jr., Geo. E. Worst, D. Frank Kline.

LEBANON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Joshua Fernsler, Thos. C. Hefflinger, Wm. Keller, E. D. Krall, J. A. H. Boger, E. W. Miller.

LEHIGH COUNTY—*Almshouse*—S. R. Engelman, S. A. J. Kern.

LUZERNE COUNTY—*Central Poor District*—O. B. MacKnight, Marx Long, Louis Tisch, A. J. Bellis, Ira Davenport, E. A. Alexander, Mrs. Eichelbeyer.

*Jenkins Township, Pittston Boro. and Pittston Township.*  
Ira C. Atherton, J. S. Porteus, M. D., James Jones.

LYCOMING COUNTY—*Williamsport City Poor House*—J. C. Pierce.

McKEAN COUNTY—*Almshouse*—C. S. King.

MERCER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—T. A. Robinson, J. W. Hawthorn and wife, J. F. Hope and wife, Jno. W. Byers and wife.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Henderson Supplee, C. W. Blan.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—John Stolzer, Mathias Buss, Samuel Kessler, James E. Kostenbader.

PHILADELPHIA—*Blockley Almshouse*—Charles Lawrence and wife, George Millikin.

PHILADELPHIA—*Germantown Poor House*—Alexander P. Keyser and wife, David Harmer and daughter, F. Wm. List, Jacob H. Pulinger, Henry Lant.

PHILADELPHIA—*Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor House*—George M. Shallcross and wife, Charles S. Snyder and wife, Jacob Titus and wife, Mrs. Dr. Boileau.

*Byberry and Moreland Poor District*—T. Miles Brous and wife.

SOMERSET COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Frederick Weller, William Dickey, Joseph L. Miller, John C. Miller, L. C. Colborn.

VENANGO COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Wm. A. Maitland and wife, Wm. Cross and wife, S. H. McKinney and wife.

WARREN COUNTY—*Rouse Hospital*—P. M. Robinson, J. A. Aikins, E. L. Morris.

WASHINGTON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—D. W. Myers, W. B. McKenna, Thos. Griffith, John Wilson, Mrs. L. A. Wilson, Hon. J. C. Sloan, E. G. Cundell.

WESTMORELAND COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Paul Bossart, W. D. Reamer, Wm. Welsh, Jacob Gettemy, Jno. R. Hayden, Lyman H. Hillis, Geo. S. Rumbaugh.

YORK COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Felix Bentzel, Reuben F. Minnich, Wm. H. Rodenhouse, B. S. Heindel, Dr. Z. C. Myers, Thomas Ramsay.

BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES OF PENNSYLVANIA—Dr. J. W. C. O'Neal, Gettysburg; Geo. W. Star, Erie; Cadwalader Biddle, General Agent and Secretary.

PENNSYLVANIA TRAINING SCHOOL FOR FEEBLE MINDED CHILDREN, ELWYN, PA.—Dr. Isaac N. Kerlin.

WASHINGTON COUNTY—*Children's Home*—J. W. Ross, Superintendent, Mrs. E. H. Ross.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA—Mrs. A. Alston, Allegheny County; Mrs. Richards, Indiana County; Mrs. Benton, Crawford County; Mrs. Darragh, Allegheny County; Mrs. McCance, Allegheny County.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY, CRAWFORD COUNTY—Mrs. J. G. Benton.

CHESTER COUNTY CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—Mrs. Lydia B. Walton, Mrs. J. B. Chambers.

VENANGO COUNTY CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY—Mrs. J. J. Fisher, Mrs. J. M. Richards, Mrs. W. H. Wise.

ERIE HOME FOR THE FRIENDLESS—Mrs. J. Teel, Miss F. Spencer, Miss Sarah Reed, Mrs. W. S. Brown, Mrs. D. W. Fitch, Mrs. L. M. Little, Mrs. C. C. Shirk, Mrs. W. E. Magill, Mrs. D. S. Clark, Mrs. G. W. Churchill, Mrs. A. Veech, Mrs. Wm. Spencer, Mrs. S. Kelly.



PENNSYLVANIA SOLDIERS' AND SAILORS' HOME—Maj. W. W. Tyson, Commander; W. W. Lowell, Quarter Master; C. C. Shirk, Trustee.

*Mr. Snyder, of Philadelphia*:—Since the last meeting of this Society we have lost by death one of its Vice-Presidents, a man whom we all know, Mr. Jno. J. Crout, of Germantown, and when I look around and see that he is not here to hand in his report, a feeling of sadness comes over me, and I ask that the Recording Secretary enter on the minutes the death of this member.

The following reports from the various poor districts and Institutions and Societies represented were called for by President Colborn, and handed in to be printed in the proceedings:

#### ADAMS COUNTY.

The Corporate name of the Home is "The Directors of the Poor and of the House of Employment for the County of Adams," and is located a half mile from Gettysburg. The present directors are James B. Myers, John A. Oiler and Joseph Sheely.

Since our last meeting the Adams County Almshouse has fully maintained its high standard of efficient management. Twice during the year the Grand Jury have inspected the buildings, as is the annual custom, and on both occasions they reported the Institution in perfect condition, and commended the officers in highest terms.

The visiting committee of the Board of Public Charities on their last visit, veritably said that "the Asylum was a model one, second to none," and that there was "no better kept institution" in the State. In their annual report issued this year, they commend in detail feature after feature, and add "from the steward down, all who are engaged in the care of this establishment deserve and should receive warm commendation."

The total cost of the maintenance of the Institution and farm, and every expense connected with it for the last fiscal year, was \$11,818.64. The number of inmates in the almshouse at end of fiscal year was 63, a decrease of one over last year. This number was made up as follows: 21 white male adults; 23 white female adults; 6 white adults, insane; 10 white female adults; 2 colored male adults; and 1 colored female adult.

During the year three male and four female inmates died, two males and one female were released, and two males and two females left without permission.

No children have been kept in the Institution longer than sixty days, homes being found for them. The Ladies' Aid Society have been ready with their help in this direction.

One child was whipped severely by its master during the year. The directors at once compelled the master to surrender the child, prosecuted the master, and the Court permitted the directors to receive \$300 for the use of the child in settlement of the case.

All of the high, unsightly fences about the buildings have disappeared within the year, and in their place low, attractive fences have been substituted, making an agreeable change. A hedge fence has been started, and already shows a healthy growth, and in a year or two we expect to have a beautiful green enclosure along public road leading to buildings.

The one building about almshouse in poor repair was a wagon shed, and that has been pulled down to make way for a new one that County Commissioners are now erecting.

The farm has never been in a more productive condition, having been well cared for and recently thoroughly drained. There is no surrounding land that can compare with it in productiveness. The directors have been developing in the past year a registered herd of Holstein to supply the Institution with milk.

The out-door relief distribution was \$30.45, about same as the preceding year; it was given to 217 individuals.

Last, but not least; last however fittingly, for time will grow hoary before we have seen the last of him, are the gents of the road. We had with us 1,891, one for each year since Anno Domini was born. They separately and collectively skipped without paying their board bills, leaving no baggage to be levied upon. There was 169 more than last year, and like last year, each and every one continue to be the same old heroes of our great battle field. Like the Wandering Jew, they will continue to be until time immemorial.

#### ALLEGHENY CITY HOME.

Number of inmates October 1st, 1892, white, males, 133; white, females, 101; colored males, 3; colored females, 5; total adults, 242.

Children: white males, 1; white females, 1; colored males, 1; total, 3.

Aggregate population, 245.

There is included in the above, confined in the Insane Department of this institution, males, 58; females, 57; total, 115.

The expenses for the year 1891 was as follows:

Current expenses.....	\$31,862 58
Out-door relief and city expenses.....	14,910 72
Extraordinary.....	19,092 45
Total.....	\$65,865 75
Average number of inmates.....	250
Average yearly cost <i>per capita</i> .....	\$ 105 02
Average weekly cost <i>per capita</i> .....	2 01

In the item of extraordinary expenses is included \$17,500 of an indebtedness that was paid off consisting of a mortgage of \$10,500 and a temporary loan of \$7,000.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOME.

This "Home" is located at Woodville, on the Washington Branch of the Pan-Handle Railroad, ten miles southwest of Pittsburgh. Board of Directors : W. H. Guy, President, Frank Patterson, Secretary, J. T. Ritchey. A total of 257 in the Home—86 natives, and 171 foreign. We also have at Dixmont Hospital 176 insane patients, for whom we pay ——— For the support of the inmates in the Home it cost last year, \$18,382.64, and expended about \$6,000 for improvements and repairs. Board meets second Thursday in each month.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY.—Pittsburgh City Farm.

In my report of admissions to the Pittsburgh City Farm at the last annual meeting of the Association of Directors of the Poor held at Reading, I showed an itemized decrease for the three years preceding that time of 552, and during the last year there is still a further decrease of 102, making a total of 654 in four years. The foregoing figures, will, in themselves exemplify the strictness observed in excluding all unworthy persons from being admitted to the Institution through the extreme watchfulness and care which is carried out by the Department, and at the same time I can truly say that all worthy and deserving people are well cared for.

There is at present quartered in the Home 153, in the male and female hospitals 70, in the insane asylum at City Farm 160, in the insane asylum at Dixmont 104, making a total of pauperism supported by the city of 487, and taking the population of Pittsburgh, at present estimated at 260,000, will show the percentage of pauperism of the city to be one-sixth of one per cent. of the entire population.

Of the 233 inmates in the Home 31 per cent. are hospital cases, which will show the helpless condition of our inmates, and a number of those at present in the Home should be in Hospital, but owing to lack of room are necessarily compelled to remain there.

All our farm work and a great deal of jobbing about the Institution is performed by the chronic insane.

The female insane are kept constantly employed in knitting, sewing, laundry work, etc., which occupies their mind and time, and also relieves them from the lethargic state in which many of them are prone to indulge.

The following report shows the total cost of maintenance of inmates in the Home, and patients in insane asylum during the year ending September 30th, 1892, and also the average number supported daily during the year, together with the cost of each inmate and patient:

HOME AND HOSPITALS, 1892.		INSANE ASYLUM, 1892.	
Total cost.....	\$22,531 56	Total cost .....	\$15,862 07
Average daily No of inmates during the year, 246.		Average daily No. of patients during the year, 154.	
Average annual cost of each	91 59 1-6	Average annual cost of each	103 00
"    monthly    "    "	7 63 1/4	"    monthly    "    "	8 58 1/2
"    weekly    "    "	1 78	"    weekly    "    "	2 00

Year.	Appropriation.	Expenditure.	Receipts.	Net. Expend.
1887	\$100,837 80	\$100,837 80	\$2,066 13	\$98,771 67
1888	90,324 89	86,179 87	2,303 90	83,875 97
1889	90,000 00	88,841 64	2,646 08	86,195 56
1890	85,000 00	84,918 86	7,148 17	77,770 69
1891	90,000 00	88,945 07	3,782 36	85,162 71

The above schedule shows the falling off in expenditure of the Institution since it came under the supervision of the Department of Charities, as, when it assumed the management and control, there was an indebtedness of \$13,000 hanging over it which had been incurred by the Board of Guardians of the Poor, notwithstanding, their yearly appropriations being much larger than any year since it came under the present management. You will observe in the year 1890, our appropriation being \$5,000 less than usual, our expenditure was the lowest, which was caused by stocking up heavily the last three months of 1889, and by stocking up less than usual the latter part of 1890. The increase of receipts for 1890 was caused by two Court decisions giving us a decree for back board of a great many year's standing.

The year 1887 was the last one of the Guardians of the Poor; the balance come under the Department of Charities.

The following list shows amount of material consumed at City Farm in the different departments and manufactured into clothing, bedding and sundries from October 1, 1891, to September 30, 1892.

	Bleached Muslin.	Unbleached Muslin.	Heavy Blue Calico.	Canton Flannel.	Skirting Flannel.
Home.....	72 yds.	763 yds.	720 yds.	15 yds.	211 $\frac{1}{4}$ yds.
Hospitals .....	451 "	508 "	294 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	106 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	75 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
Asylum.....	340 "	836 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	1,100 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	406 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	101 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	863 yds.	2,107 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds.	2,115 $\frac{1}{4}$ yds.	528 $\frac{1}{4}$ yds.	388 $\frac{1}{4}$ yds.

	Cheviot.	Crash.	Gingham.	Red Damask.	Ticking.
Home.....	698 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds.	350 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds.	246 yds.	.....	51 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds.
Hospitals.....	178 "	179 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	145 "	6 yds.	99 $\frac{3}{4}$ "
Asylum.....	506 "	588 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds.	170 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	66 $\frac{1}{2}$ "	214 $\frac{1}{2}$ "
	1,382 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds.	1,118 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds.	561 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds.	72 $\frac{1}{2}$ yds.	365 $\frac{3}{4}$ yds.



	Light Calico.	Check.	Red Flannel.	Blue Denim.	Ducking.
Home.....	139 yds.	175½ yds.	33 yds.	25 yds.	.....
Hospitals .....	177 "	.....	100½ "	12 "	.....
Asylum.....	92½ "	67½ "	.....	105½ "	74½ yds.
	408½ yds.	243 yds.	133½ yds.	142½ yds.	74½ yds.

	Pepperell Drilling.	Blue Henrietta Cloth.	Victoria Lawn.	Dotted Swiss.	Cambric.
Home.....	105½ yds.	230½ yds.	156 yds.	36 yds.	191½ yds.
Hospitals .....	104 "	230½ "	156 "	36 "	191½ "
Asylum.....	209½ yds.	461 yds.	312 yds.	72 yds.	383 yds.

	Seersucker.	Cashmere.	Gauze.	Wool Yarn, Pounds.	Cotton Yarn, Pounds.
Home.....	186 yds.	20 yds.	16 yds.	.....	.....
Hospitals .....	.....	.....	48 "	20 pds.	.....
Asylum.....	186 "	.....	40 "	85 "	41 pds.
	372 yds.	20 yds.	104 yds.	105 pds.	41 pds.

PITTSBURGH, October 10th, 1892.

*To the President and Members of the Association of the Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania:*

The Department of Charities of the City of Pittsburgh respectfully reports the following relief furnished pauper immigrants during the year ending October 1st, 1892, viz: Total number of immigrants assisted 139; of this number 7 were pregnant cases, 4 were cases of insanity, 24 of the applicants were sent to the Almshouse, 27 received outside medical attention, 5 died and were buried by the Department and the balance received out-door relief in various ways.

All of the above immigrants became a charge on this Department within a year of their landing and by order of the United States Treasury Department 45 of them were shipped to their respective port of entry to be returned to the country from whence they came.

For the relief furnished the above this Department received from the United States Treasury Department the sum of \$366.69.

Respectfully submitted,

R. C. ELLIOTT, *Chief of Dept.*

By GEO. H. HOFFMAN, *Examiner.*

## BEDFORD COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

Bedford County Almshouse, located three miles south of Bedford, near the Maryland line. Names of Directors: Geo. H. Ickes, Geo. Kerr, A. B. Biddle. Average number of inmates, 72; expenditures for 1891, \$10,231.67. Our improvements consists of new water closets, laying of floors, painting of building inside, and improving the place in general, such as remodeling the chapel, repairing out-buildings, improving supply of water, etc.

## BERKS COUNTY ALMSHOUSE.

The Berks County Almshouse District has a population of about 138,000. The Home for the Poor consists of two large brick buildings with furnished accommodations for over 600 people, situated on a large farm of 514 acres of land, three miles from the city of Reading.

During the year ending September 30th, 1892, we supported in the almshouse an average of 298 inmates. We have at the State Asylum, at Harrisburg, 106 insane, 15 children in the Home for Friendless Children, at Reading, 10 children at Elwyn Home.

513 families received out-door relief.

Out-door relief granted.....	\$9,485 00	
Paid for maintaining insane .....	8,750 00	
Paid for maintaining children.....	1,059 00	
Paid for maintaining feeble-minded children.....	243 12	
Total expenses for out-door relief, maintaining insane and children.....		\$19,537 12
Paid repairs at hospital building.....	\$4,000 00	
Cost of creamery and supplies.....	958 63	
Boiler repairs, steam fixtures and gas.....	1,967 42	
Transportation.....	159 63	
Miscellaneous expense and general repairs.....	1,300 00	
Running expenses for maintaining inmates at Almshouse.....	25,733 31	
Total Expenditures.....		\$53,656 11
Cash receipts for farm products, maintenance paid into County treasury, maintenance deducted from total expenditures.....		\$2,600 00
Net cost of Almshouse, including repairs, out-door relief, maintenance of insane and children.....		\$51,056 11
Weekly cost per capita.....		1 67

## CRAWFORD COUNTY HOME.

County Home is located in Crawford county, being in the northwest portion of the State, at the junction of French and Woodcock creeks. The farm contains 215 acres of land, of a fair to good quality. We have made some improvements, such as sewers from the buildings, and digging ditches, laying tile in the fields, etc., within the last year. Number of inmates average 94, at a cost of \$9,129.07, including repairs,

physician to poor house, etc., making a cost per week for those in the house of \$1.89; to this report I may add the out-door relief bills paid the different hospitals, for insane and others, reform schools, and different physicians for attending the poor, the sum of \$20,796.48, making a total expenditure for the relief of the poor in the county of Crawford, of \$29,925.49. Poor Directors: Levi Putnam, of Harmonsburg, Edgar Patch, of Penn Line, O. P. Blakesly, of Spartansburg.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

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#### CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

*To the President of the Association of the Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania:*

The Directors of the Poor of Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, respectfully submit the following report:

The Cumberland County Home is exquisitely situated two miles east of Carlisle, in the beautiful Cumberland Valley. The Institution is composed of two buildings, to-wit: the Home and the Hospital. The former is old, but serviceable, while the latter is comparatively new and well adapted for its purposes, being supplied with dumb-waiter, steam heat and other conveniences.

The number of inmates in the Institution is 92, distributed as follows: The Home contains 28 males and 12 females, and the Hospital contains 27 males and 25 females. There are no children or insane persons in the Institution. The general health of the inmates has been excellent.

The Institution is managed by a Board of Directors, three in number, whose term of office expires alternately every year. The supplies are contracted for on the first day of January of each year. All supplies are purchased by the Board upon monthly estimates, submitted by the Steward, at every regular meeting, as provided by law. The cost per capita for maintaining the inmates is \$1.46 per week.

There were a number of improvements made during the year. The chief ones were the painting of the wood work and walls of the interior of the Hospital, and the laying of a five inch iron pipe from the head of the spring to the pumping house, a distance of 800 feet, where the water is pumped three times a day into the Hospital, and from there disseminated to all parts of the Institution. The Institution is thus supplied with clear, pure, sweet water for drinking, and all other purposes. A new 12-horse power boiler was also placed in the pumping house.

The number of insane persons in the county is about the same as last year, there being no apparent increase.

The County Farm has been well cultivated, and has yielded good crops.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

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#### CARBON COUNTY.

Middle Coal Field Poor District, (parts of Carbon and Luzerne Counties), situated about three miles from Rockport, Carbon County, Pa.

## APPROXIMATE VALUE OF REAL ESTATE, AS FOLLOWS:

381 acres of land.....	\$15,240 00
Barn and other frame buildings.....	4,500 00
Store house.....	1,500 00
Almshouse, (main building).....	12,000 00
Hospital building and fixtures.....	25,000 00
Boiler house and laundry fixtures.....	5,500 00
House furniture, (all buildings).....	2,500 00
Chop mill and water works.....	2,000 00
Gas machine and fixtures.....	250 00
Farm implements and machinery.....	2,000 00
Live stock.....	2,000 00
Total.....	<u>\$72,490 00</u>

Number of Inmates in Hospital, December 31, Male.....	63
“ “ “ “ Female.....	26
“ “ Almshouse, “ Male.....	41
“ “ “ “ Female.....	10
“ “ “ “ Children.....	9
Total.....	<u>146</u>

There were no vagrants or tramps relieved during the year, but 65 indigent insane persons, residents of this district, have been maintained at Danville, Pa.

Whole number of persons receiving out-door relief, 187 adults and 241 children ; total, 428.

## DISBURSEMENTS, 1891.

Conveying Paupers.....	\$ 483 08
“ Insane.....	204 55
Children's Aid Society.....	174 00
Feeble-minded Children.....	110 00
Improvements.....	1,405 65
Interest on Loan.....	648 08
Live Stock.....	107 50
Insane at Danville.....	5,638 75
Out-door Relief and Burials.....	9,078 82
Out-door Medical Attendance.....	271 18
Blockley Almshouse.....	90 16
Repair Buildings.....	327 75
Election Expenses and Printing.....	772 55
Salaries and Expenses.....	1,750 33
	<u>\$21,062 40</u>
Maintenance.....	10,955 32
Total.....	<u>\$32,017 72</u>



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Average number of Inmates.....	149
Cost per month.....	\$6 12
Cost per week.....	1 41
Cost per day.....	20

The District is now entirely free from debt. The interest paid last year was on account of negotiation of loan made necessary by the destruction of the barn by fire, including grain, farm implements, live stock, etc., incurring a loss of at least \$10,000.

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### ERIE COUNTY.

We have in Erie County a population of about 95,000. Erie County Almshouse is located two miles west of Erie city, near the Lake Shore Railroad. It is managed by a Board of three Directors. Their regular meetings are the first Tuesday of each month, when all the business of the Board is done. We employ one Steward and Matron. For the year 1891, the number of inmates supported was about 180. In addition to these we had 50 insane at Warren Hospital.

Our out-door relief numbered about 850, principally widows and their families. In addition to these there were about 63 insane from this county kept at Warren, by order of Court, whom the County Commissioners look after and pay for. We had five children at the Feeble-minded School, at Elwyn, Pa. What other children we have entire charge of, we place in the Home for the Friendless in this city, at \$1.50 per week. The ladies of the Home find good homes for these children as soon as they can. We have in our Almshouse three hospitals, with a paid nurse for each. The cooking for the inmates is done by a paid cook. We use natural gas for fuel and light principally. We have 140 acres of good, tillable land. We employ one farm hand as overseer. The work on the farm is done principally by the inmates. We raise about one-half of the wheat that is consumed in the house, and all the potatoes and vegetables. We also raise our own pork, and some beef. We believe in giving out-side aid, 1st, as a matter of humanity ; 2d, as a matter of economy. We investigate all cases before giving aid.

Total almshouse expenditures.....	\$17,673 38
Total out-side expenditures .....	17,552 62
Total.....	\$35,226 00

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### FRANKLIN COUNTY.

Franklin County, with a population of 52,000, has one almshouse, located two miles east of Chambersburg, on a farm of 210 acres. The buildings are a large stone house, erected in 1811, a large brick building, built in 1853, and wing added in 1882. The Institution is governed by three Directors, who meet first Tuesday of every month. One or more of the directors visit at least once between regular meetings.

We employ a steward and matron, a baker, shoemaker and tailor ; also, two hospital nurses, one for each sex, and nurse for general sick room. We have one physician and a regular chaplain ; religious services are held every Sabbath, and Christian burial given the dead. The farm is worked by the inmates, directed by one paid hand, and it is producing enough wheat to bread the Institution. A general line of vegetables are raised, and a large part of the meat produced. Although it is a frequently advanced opinion that a farm is a needless and expensive adjunct to an almshouse, we do not consider it so, and find it our best and most available means of giving employment to the inmates. We have our own water works, supplied by an excellent and unfailing spring on the premises, a stream running through the farm and water wheel giving the motor power.

Number of inmates in the home January 1st, 1892, 127.

Out-door expense for year. ....	\$6,415 26
Salaries .....	2,159 56
Labor .....	303 09
Maintenance of Home.....	7,974 22

Total Expenditures.....\$16,852 26

Present number of inmates October 1st, 1892. White, males 46, female 47 : colored, males 9, females 11 ; total 113.

We have at Hospital for Insane at Harrisburg, five ; seven children at Elwyn, two with Chester County Childrens' Aid Society, and ten in in Childrens' Home at Chambersburg ; also, three in boarding homes, and quite a number in permanent homes.

We give out-door relief by monthly allowance of from one to four dollars to each beneficiary, and have now on the out-door list 117 persons. Some years ago there was much abuse on this line of work, many unwarrantable cases being put on the list, no doubt from the fact that it is much easier to be generous than just with public funds, and that neighbors to an applicant are so willing to recommend them for charity.

This abuse has been corrected to a great extent by personal visitation and investigation, the amount paid for out-door relief for September being but \$215. Some years ago it averaged over \$500 per month.

#### LANCASTER COUNTY.

Lancaster County Almshouse and Insane Hospital, located at Lancaster. Number in Home, 417 ; cost of maintenance, \$50,000. Directors : E. H. Hershey, President, J. S. Strine, Wm. Good, D. C. Kready, H. W. Graybill, C. Herr, Jr. ; Geo. E. Worst, Superintendent ; D. Frank Kline, Resident Physician.

#### LEHIGH COUNTY.

Lehigh County has a population of about 80,000. We have one almshouse, located about four miles west of Allentown, the county seat. It is

managed by a Board of three Directors. Present Board of Directors: Samuel R. Engelman, Reuben M. Roeder and Wm. Diebert, who hold their regular meetings on the first Monday of each month, at the almshouse. They employ a Steward and Matron, who take charge of the house, farm and inmates. We have a farm of 250 acres, and have only one hired man on the farm as overseer; all the other work is done by the inmates. Last year we raised on our farm 1,900 bushels of wheat, 530 bushels of rye, 1,600 bushels of oats, 2,900 bushels of shelled corn, and 83 loads of hay, and all the vegetables we needed.

Number of Inmates in the House January 1st, 1891.....	240	
Admitted during the year.....	234	
Born during the.....	4	478
Discharged during the year.....	190	
Absconded.....	3	
Died.....	32	
Removed.....	5	
Indentured.....	14	244
Remaining in the House December 31st, 1891.....		<u>234</u>
Adult males.....	179	
Adult females.....	49	
Male children under 16 years... ..	4	
Female children under 16 years.....	2	234
Native born.....	123	
Foreign born.....	111	<u>234</u>

We have at present 52 patients in Insane Asylum at Norristown, 8 children in Feeble-minded School at Elwyn, 22 children in the care of Ladies' Aid Society.

Total expenditures for the year 1891, \$20,769.23, viz: for salaries, \$4,468.66, home expenses, \$7,771.47, farming expenses, \$1,017.82, building and repairs, \$1,284.50, maintaining children, as per Act of Assembly, \$2,345.00, out-door relief, \$3,881.78.

#### LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

This district was incorporated by Act of May 8th, 1857, as Directors of the Poor of Jenkins Township, Pittston Borough and Pittston Township. The township of Lackawanna was annexed and made part of the district by Act of March 27th, 1860. This territory embraces at present Pittston, Hughestown, Avoca, Laffin and Yatesville Boroughs, Jenkins, Pittston, Marcy, Old Forge, and Lackawanna Townships. It extends from the city of Scranton southwards ten or twelve miles to Plant Township, and from the Susquehanna river and Ransom Township eastwards an average distance of say six miles. Our poor house and farms are located in Ransom Township which is not in any part of the district. The principle building at this Home is of brick 206x40 feet and four stories in height including the basement. It is heated with



steam and has all the other required modern improvements. In the male department there are thirty-nine inmates, and in the female twenty-one and three children. We have forty-four insane patients at the Danville Hospital and one child at the Elwyn Training School.

On the cost of maintenance we cannot give a definite statement as the products of the farm are large and used without stint or exactness yet nothing is lavished or wasted that can be used to advantage. The inmates get plenty of good food, milk, vegetables and fruits in the season. We also furnish leaf tobacco to those who desire to smoke away their troubles or anxieties. Whenever any of the inmates desire or require religious attention or consolation, the minister of their choice or denomination is promptly and kindly invited to attend. We gave \$2,500 out-door relief in the last year to seventy-five families having 129 dependent children; we are limited by law to this amount. We have five directors: Dr. G. B. Seamans, Louis Seibel, Ira C. Atherton, James Jones and Paul Bohan. They are appointed by the President Judge of Luzerne County for a term of three years.

#### LEBANON COUNTY.

Lebanon County Almshouse is situated two miles east of Lebanon. Our Poor District comprises the whole county of Lebanon, with a population of 48,131. Present number of inmates, 77—44 male, 33 female. Average number, 80. Number of persons receiving out-door relief during the year, 58. Our almshouse expenses were \$9,911.88; out-door relief expenses were \$1,740.00. Total expenses, \$11,651.88.

We have a farm of 198 acres, all under cultivation, with the exception of about four acres which is pasture land. We employ one farm hand as overseer. All the work on the farm is done by the inmates, except during haymaking and harvest, when one hand additional is hired. We raise all the wheat that is consumed in the house, and all the potatoes and vegetables. We raise all our own pork and some beef. We give out-door relief aid principally to widows and children, and old people; we give from two to three dollars a month. We investigate all cases after the first application is granted. We have a good many widows with one to four children, that we keep out of the poor house with a little out-door aid. We have at present 21 patients in the Insane Asylum at Harrisburg, and 9 children in care of the Children's Aid Society.

#### MERCER COUNTY.

Mercer County is one of the northwest counties of the State of Pennsylvania, and is bounded on the north by Crawford county, on the east by Venango and Butler counties, on the south by Lawrence county, and on the west by the State of Ohio. It has an area of some 650 square miles, and contains a population of some 56,000 inhabitants. The county was originally a timber county, and is now well cleared and settled up, and is now divided into farming, agricultural, manufactur-



ing and mining operations, having some ten or twelve blast furnaces, four or five rolling mills and three or four steel works, planing mills, machine shops, saw mills, and many other branches of business too numerous to mention in this report. These different pursuits of life bring into our county not only a mixed, but also a foreign emigration, which is a very different class of citizens from a strictly farming county, for we find that foreigners are not backward in asking for help from the county in case of a strike or a shutdown, or sickness, and that is what tells on our Poor Report from year to year. So to provide for these things, we, as early as the year A. D. 1851, obtained a charter for an Almshouse, to be under the supervision of three Directors of Poor, whose duty it is to see to all of these wants; also, the charter gave authority to purchase a farm and build a house suitable for the accommodation of the poor of the county; it is situated one mile north of Mercer, the county seat, and in 1879 or 1880, the house became too small and inconvenient, and we purchased an addition of land to the farm, and now have some 206 acres of good land, and proceeded to erect a new brick, modern style of a house, that is not only a comfort to the worthy poor of our county, but an ornament and a credit to our county as well, it being all heated by steam and lighted by natural gas. This house cost us some \$100,000 to build, and we have experienced some difficulty in the sewerage of the house which was water being supplied from a large spring on the farm, which is ample and sufficient for all purposes, but the difficulty was on a neighboring farm at the delivery into a small creek or run, and we have had to pay damages for the same; and to obviate this difficulty, and also to secure the best sanitary condition of affairs, we are just now introducing the Smead & Wells' Dryer and Crematory System of Sewerage by Cremation, which we believe to be the correct thing for a place of this kind, as all foul substances are cremated and destroyed, and will be undoubtedly a great sanitary improvement in the sewerage of our house.

Our management is by a Board of Directors of three, one elected each year for a term of three years, and paid by the day for their services; and then we employ a steward and matron to take charge of the farm and house; and also the inmates, and in this way we succeed in getting very much work on the farm from the men, and also much work in the house by the women, that goes to keep down expenses in the way of hired help, and is also a good, healthy exercise for these inmates that are able to work.

The whole number of inmates in the house is now about ninety. These are principally old men and women, and also some crippled and infirm, and some idiotic. These have been kept at an expense of about \$7,500, including all expenses of farm, hired help, repairs, etc.

Then, in addition to this, we have an out-side relief that is the vexed question with us, what to do with it. This is what makes a large expense in the expenses of the county, and also makes much work for the Directors. There are some six hundred of these out-side to whom aid is given, men, women and children. We allow them by the month an

amount that reaches some \$6,500. Then we have at the insane asylum at Warren, about thirty, at a cost of about \$2,400. Then add to this doctor bills, both inside and also outside, funeral bills, removal of paupers, etc., directors' salaries, steward and matron's salaries, and hired help expenses on the farm, etc., and we find that we have in round numbers some \$22,000, so that the poor of our county is of some importance. But some of our heaviest tax payers tell us that we are right, they want their poor well taken care of, let it cost what it will to do it, so we feel that we are only doing our duty as Directors, and also the approbation of the citizens, and by giving outside relief in many cases, it saves from dividing families, as in many cases only one member of the family is afflicted, and probably only temporary, and by a little aid they are on their feet again, and the difficulty is obviated. But it takes a good management to make this matter of outside relief a success. It is wholly in the hands of the Director in charge, and much good judgment is required to do justly by the pauper, and at the same time take care of the interests of the county; and to more fully carry out this plan, we divide the county into three equal parts, to each Director a part, and each one has entire control of his own part of the county. We find that this plan works well, and to the satisfaction of both pauper and tax payer. Then the Board of Directors meet at the almshouse on the first Monday of each month, and settle all expenses of the Board by the granting of orders on the County Treasurer for the amounts of the last month, and also compare business and advise with each other as to the best way to do with certain cases on hand, and we find it works well.

Then we are happy to have to report the good success of the farm the last year. Through the good financiering of the Board of Directors, and the excellent executive ability of our very efficient steward, we have made the largest production off the farm ever made heretofore, so that we all feel well repaid for our labor and expense.

And now we come to our last item to report, but by no means the least item of this report. It is this: we had noticed some time ago that we had a matron in the almshouse in the person of Mrs. Anna Byers, wife of John W. Byers, the steward. Mrs. Byers has now for nearly three years occupied this position, and we can cheerfully say that we think to the entire satisfaction of the Board of Directors, the entire inmates of the house, and also of the citizens, as far as having come under their observation; so that we all can unhesitatingly say of her nothing but praise in the discharge of her duties in the house as its very worthy matron, as also a very fine lady, one who always meets visitors at the door with a welcome and a smile of satisfaction that does a visitor good to know that he is welcome.

All of the above is respectfully submitted.

#### NORTHAMPTON COUNTY.

The Northampton County Almshouse is situated nine miles west of Easton in a rural district; the soil is light.

There is connected with the Almshouse a farm of 365 acres, about 300 acres under cultivation, on which is raised all grain for flour, potatoes and vegetables for the inmates, also the grain and hay for stock. We have 181 inmates, only three children under two years, but no insane.

Expenditures for last year were \$17,691.84, paid out as follows: For salaries, \$3,474.00; house expenses, \$6,865.62; farming expenses, \$630.14; ordinary repair, \$333.21; out-door relief, \$3,059.15; children in homes, private families and feeble-minded home, \$3,329.74. This amount includes not our insane in State Hospital; there are 102 of this class in the State Hospital at Norristown, but our County Commissioners pay the bill there.

Our main building, a stone structure, is being rebuilt and is nearly completed with a cost of \$11,000; it is done by our County Commissioners.

#### PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.—Blockley Almshouse.

Since your last meeting extensive improvements have been continued. The buildings for the Insane Department referred to one year ago have been completed and occupied. The new laundry has also been finished and put in use. A building, to be used for isolating patients suffering from any contagious or infectious disease that may develop in the Institution, is now being erected. The clinic hall has been remodeled and put in first class order. A stone wall about 1,800 feet long, ten feet above ground level, has been built around two sides of the grounds and the walls and ceilings of a number of the wards have been replastered and painted during the year, improving them very much.

Expenditures to September 30th, 1892:

Maintenance, repairs, &c.....	\$246,881 72
On account of new buildings.....	10,474 15
Outside expenses.....	32,704 76
Total.....	\$290,060 63

In the outside expenses are included the maintenance of forty-seven children with Children's Aid Society; nine at St. John's Orphan Asylum; ten at St. Vincent's Home; 104 at Pennsylvania Training School; six blind men at Pennsylvania Working Home for Blind Men; one man and one woman at Deaf and Dumb Institution; there is also included salaries of out-door physicians and the medicines and dietetic food furnished outside patients.

Number in the House at 12 o'clock, M.....	2,975
Number in the House at same time last year.....	2,976—decrease 1
Number in the House at last monthly meeting....	2,964—increase 11
1891—average population 3078. 1892—average population 3099.	



## RECAPITULATION.

Admitted since the last report, August 31st, 1891.....	489
Births .....	8
Discharged.....	372
Deaths.....	69
Eloped.....	45
Indentured.....	
Number of persons granted lodgings since the last report.....	40
Number of persons granted meals since the last report.....	60

The inmates are classed as follows:

## GENERAL HOSPITAL.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd.
Surgical Wards .....	80	11	Surgical Wards.....	38	4
Medical Wards.....	238	13	Medical Wards.....	69	6
Venereal Wards.....	28	7	Venereal Wards.....	22	2
Ophthalmic Wards..	16	1	Obstetrical Wards,		
Obstetrical Wards,			(Adults) .....	17	4
(Babies).....			Obstetrical Wards,		
Nervous Wards .....	172	13	(Babies).....	2	
	—	—	Ophthalmic Wards....	8	
	534	45	Nervous Wards.....	63	4
				—	—
				219	20

## INSANE HOSPITAL.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd.
Insane.....	406	26	Insane.....	431	33
Insane and Epileptic	25	4	Insane and Epileptic.	25	4
Imbeciles and Idiots.	7	3	Imbeciles and Idiots..	15	5
	—	—		—	—
	438	33		481	42

## NURSERY.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd.
Babies .....	17	4	Women.....	28	6
			Babies .....	13	5
				—	—
				41	11

## CHILDREN'S ASYLUM.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd.
Boys.....	12	1	Adults.....	2	
Boys on trial and in			Girls.....	5	2
homes.....	65	18	Girls on trial and in		
	—	—	homes .....	43	9
	77	19		—	—
				50	11



## OUT-WARDS.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd.
Superannuated.....	252	15	Superannuated.....	203	15
All others.....	311	5	All other.....	127	5
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
	563	20		330	20

## RECAPITULATION.

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd.
Out-wards.....	563	20	Out-wards.....	330	20
General Hospital....	534	45	General Hospital.....	219	20
Insane Hospital.....	438	33	Insane Hospital.....	481	42
Nursery .....	17	4	Nursery.....	41	11
Children's Asylum..	77	19	Children's Asylum....	50	11
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,629	121		1,121	104

Inmates of the Out-wards already enumerated, regularly employed in—

MALES.	White.	Colored.	FEMALES.	White.	Col'd.
Out-wards.....	696	4	Out-wards.....	127	5
General Hospital. ..	2				
Insane Hospital.....	1				
Women's Out-ward..	11	1			
Children's Asylum..	1				
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
	311	5		127	5

## SOMERSET COUNTY.

The Poor House was organized by special law, approved 15th April, 1845. Located two miles from Somerset, the county seat. The farm contains 342 acres, 200 of which is in a good state of cultivation. The Home commands one of the finest prospects in the county.

The buildings occupied by the inmates are in three separate departments. The main building is a large, well-built, two-story brick, mostly occupied by women and aged married people. The men's department is a two-story frame. The insane building is a new, two-story brick, with all the modern improvements. The buildings are all heated by steam, and lighted by electric light. The Home never was in better condition, or presented a finer appearance.

The Directors are wide awake, active business men and excellent farmers, whose management of the Home is unquestionable.

At present there are 71 inmates at the Home, 50 males and 21 females; 14 inmates at State hospitals, 8 males and 6 females; 3 inmates at Feeble-minded school, at Elwyn; 51 children indentured and in private families, 30 males and 21 females.

Number of tramps relieved during the year, 536; meals provided, 553; lodgings, 388. Total cost of maintenance of each per week, outside of cost of building, \$1.26.

Religious services were held once each month, and at the funeral of each buried.

The cost of the new building complete is.....	\$ 7,000 00
Repairs to other buildings.....	645 00
Steam heat supplied.....	2,150 00
Cost of maintaining of Home.....	6,930 00
	<u>\$16,725 00</u>

A good portion of above was paid the latter part of last year.

While the Home is old, yet, with the new building erected and the improvements made to the old, and the adding of steam and electric light, makes it compare favorably to many throughout the State. The present Board of Officers are as follows: Frederick Weller, President, Somerset, Pa., William Dickel, Berlin, Pa., Joseph L. Miller, Somerset, Pa., L. C. Colborn, Attorney and Clerk, Somerset, Pa., John C. Miller, Steward, Somerset, Pa., Dr. J. W. Corothers, Physician, Somerset, Pa., John Hamer, Treasurer, Somerset, Pa., Rev. F. P. Saylor, Chaplain, Somerset, Pa.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

#### SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.

Situated three-fourths mile from Schuylkill Haven, which is the P. O. Address; reached by Lehigh, Pennsy & Reading Railroads; Directors: Thos. J. Tracy, Shenandoah, John Bergan, Heckscherville, Robert Ebling, West Brunswick; Steward, Elijah Emerich, Physician, Chas. D. Carr, Solicitor, Watson F. Shepherd, Clerk, John J. O'Connor.

Land under cultivation, 228 acres; timber land, 17 acres; worked by farmer, teamster and inmates.

Four large buildings, including Steward's department, a hospital, an infirmary, and an insane department; total capacity, 500. There is also a bakery, a boiler house, laundry, shoemaker and butcher shops, the latter with refrigerator; wagon sheds, large brick pig-sty, a bank barn, 60x125 feet, a bank barn 40 feet square, dairy and hennery operated.

Actual Almshouse expenses for 1891, including products of farm, \$57,081.49. Average daily number of inmates, 447½.

#### OUT-DOOR EXPENSES.

Out-door Relief.....	\$19,080 79
“ Burials.....	890 00
“ Maintenance in other districts.....	1,246 81
“ Medical attendance.....	1,263 75
“ Other expenses, Director's salaries, traveling expenses and mileage, justices' fees.....	6,425 09
“ Maintenance of insane at Harrisburg.....	7,931 00
“ Maintenance of children at Pottsville Benevolent Home.....	533 25
Improvement to Hospital.....	10,264 58
	<u>\$47,635 27</u>

## VENANGO COUNTY.

The name of our Institution is the "Venango County Home," situated at Sugar Creek, near the N. Y., P. & O. R. R. station. The County Commissioners are the Poor Directors. Their names are William A. Maitland, Samuel H. McKinney and William Cross ; Superintendent, Henry A. Culp, Matron, Mrs. H. A. Culp. The Physician is Dr. McClellan, Clerk, A. J. Ward, Attorney, C. A. Myers. The average number ninety-two, (92.) The net cost of maintenance, (\$1.70) one dollar and seventy cents per week. The house is 200 feet long by 150 wide, and three stories high, with basement under whole building ; it is well ventilated, and has fire escapes. There are two large forty-horse power boilers used for heating the house, which are run by using natural gas for fuel. The farm contains 275 acres of land, about 175 acres being cleared, the balance timber.

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## WASHINGTON COUNTY.

Number in Home, 141. Cost of Maintenance, 1891, \$17,000.

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## WARREN COUNTY.

This Institution is situated on the P. & E. and D. A. V. R. R.'s, eight miles west of Warren and one mile east of Youngsville. Directors: T. N. Robinson, J. A. Akins and Roger Mooney, County Commissioners. Average number of inmates sixty-five. Cost of maintenance of same \$2.45 per week, or about \$8,212 per annum. The farm contains 400 acres, 200 improved, balance timber. There has been expended this year \$1,000 in repairing out-buildings, repainting main building, and other improvements. Receipts of the farm from sale of produce, timber, etc., \$1,800.

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## WESTMORELAND COUNTY.

Name, Westmoreland County Home, Greensburg, Pa., (3 miles south.) Board of Directors: Paul Bossart, President, W. D. Reamer, Secretary, William Welsh, Jacob Gettemy, John R. Hayden ; Lyman H. Hillis, Superintendent; Geo. S. Rumbaugh, Attorney. Number in Home, 145; now average, 190. Cost of maintaining Home, out-door paupers, etc., \$30,000. Improvements : Farm of 182 acres. Valuation, farm, \$75,000, Home, \$75,000 ; total, \$150,000.

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## ALLEGHENY COUNTY.—Children's Aid Society.

The interest in this work is increasing for which we have much reason to be thankful. During the past year we have taken in charge 52 new cases and have now in charge 121.

The duties of the Actuary have become so onerous that it has become necessary to employ a visitor, as we endeavor to have the children visited at least once a year and in many cases oftener. During the past year the Actuary wrote 1,356 letters and made 760 calls in the interest of the work, beside the visits to children which amounted to three or four hundred. We have also a visiting committee of ten ladies who visit the children in their homes and from this month's report the homes are satisfactory and the children contented.

We work in perfect harmony with the Allegheny City and County Homes, and the Homeopathic Hospital, West Penn and Memorial and Children's Hospital have treated without charge any case we have asked them. We feel we are doing a good work and while the opportunity is given us for doing this work we are thankful that others who are interested in the homeless orphans as God's little ones, give to us their contributions to enable us to rescue these little ones and give them comfortable homes.

#### CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.

The Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania reports that from the commencement of the work in the western counties 875 children have been cared for. There are still left in care 398.

The balance (477) have passed from the care of the Societies in various ways. A large number have been returned to friends. Some have outgrown the headship of the Societies, others have died, a few have run away and, the rarest instances of all, a few have married.

One hundred and forty children, new cases, have been cared for during the present year.

Reports from the secretaries of the Auxiliary Societies, monthly, and from the treasurers, quarterly, have been received at the general office with increased promptness and regularity during the year. Correspondence has been actively carried on between the county societies and the general office, eight hundred letters having been received at the office, and 1,200 letters and cards have been sent out by the Actuary.

Counties have been visited when the exigencies of the work has demanded it. Such county visits number 26. A yearly increase has been made in official calls, they number this year 310. Calls made by Actuary in interest of the work, 640. Respectfully submitted.

#### CHESTER COUNTY—Children's Aid Society.

Another year's experience in this aid work has taught new lessons, and encouragement has crowned our efforts in behalf of the little outcast.

The active membership of the Society for the past year has been 148. The Directors of the Poor have transferred to our care during the year 22 children. A large majority of these wards are quite young in years, and placed in temporary homes, the Directors of the Poor paying \$1.75 per week for their board and clothing, while for the older ones free homes have been obtained.



Within the year one child has died, two disappeared, one returned to the Home mentally unfit for a private family.

At present under our supervision there are 113, of whom 44 are in free homes, 35 in temporary homes, and 34 indentured.

In the supplementary department, which embraces the protection of the homeless, deserted children not chargeable to the county, nine additional children have been taken from the most unfavorable environments, clothed and fed, homes secured, and tidings reach us of their improvement and usefulness. In this line of our work 59 are enrolled. The unvarying kindness of the Directors of the Poor, and their manly efforts to straighten our entanglements, have been vastly appreciated.

The Superintendent and wife of the County Home are heartily interested in our work, and the little people who briefly tarry there are guarded with parental care. We trust the result of this persistent endeavor will not only prove a blessing to the dependent children of our county to-day, but the untold generations that will come after them.

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#### ERIE COUNTY.—Home for the Friendless.

The Erie Home for the Friendless is situated in Erie, Pa., on Sassafras, 22nd and 23rd sts. Officers : President, Miss Sarah Reed, 1st Vice-President, Mrs. W. S. Brown ; 2nd Vice-President, Mrs. D. W. Fitch ; Treasurer, Mrs. L. M. Little ; Secretary, Mrs. C. C. Shirk. The board of managers numbers fifty. Number now in the Home 68. During the past year it has cost \$1.64½ per week for each inmate. The improvements consist of a large addition to the building occupied by the old people, costing \$12,000.

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#### PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—Department of Charities and Correction.

Children supported in private families and institutions other than the Almshouse, by the Department of Charities and Correction of Philadelphia during the year ending September 30, 1892, as follows, viz : At Training School, Elwyn, 110 ; at Roman Catholic Asylums, 29 ; in private families, care Children's Aid Society, 98 ; total, 237.

Number of children in the Philadelphia Hospital at the present date, 7th October, 1892, at follows, viz : Nervous wards, 3 ; Surgical wards, 3 ; Obstetrical wards, 2 ; Nursery wards, 40 ; Children's Asylum, 21 ; total, 69.

Number of children placed out at boarding at the present date, 7th October, 1892, as follows, viz : At Training School, Elwyn, 104 ; at Roman Catholic Asylums, 19 ; in private families, care of Children's Aid Society, 47 ; total, 170.

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PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.—Home for Training Deaf Children, etc.

The "Home for the training in speech of deaf children before they are of school age," was opened in temporary quarters (old building of the Methodist Orphanage) on Monument Avenue near Ford Road, Philadelphia, on February 1, 1892.

Although within city limits the Home is in the country district beyond the park and in a very healthy locality. It opened with fifteen little deaf-born children between the ages of two and seven; this number has now increased to twenty and others are expected. The children are being trained in articulate speech and like reading according to natural methods and are rapidly improving, not only in these, but in health under the natural use of their vocal organs. They love a family, not an institution life.

A new building will be immediately erected on land generously donated for the purpose by Col. Bennett. This land is near the temporary quarters and is on Belmont avenue near Monument avenue. This building will be followed by others, as not more than from twenty to thirty children will live in a cottage. The money for the first building was given by the last Legislature and the next Legislature will provide for the future maintenance of the pupils as in the schools for the deaf, but from the opening in last February until now all the money for maintenance has been raised by the Principal of the Home, Miss Emma Garrëtt and her sister Miss Mary S. Garrett. Children from this State are admitted free, and if any young deaf children of sound intellect come under the care of any of the various Children's Aid Societies of the State they would be admitted, although it would be very acceptable if the Aid Societies would pay for such children until such time as the Legislature will provide the maintenance. Children are admitted between the ages of two and eight and can remain under training for six years from the date of entrance. It is preferred that they should enter as near the minimum age as possible.

The managers will be glad to hear of any young deaf children of sound intellect who may come under the notice of the Poor Board.

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WASHINGTON COUNTY—Children's Home.

J. W. Ross, Superintendent. Number in Home, 52. Cost of Maintenance, \$5.700.

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Upon motion of Mr. Glenn, it is agreed that a committee of five be appointed by the President upon time and place of next meeting.

Upon motion of Mr. Snyder, that a committee of five be likewise appointed upon officers for the coming year; and a committee of three to audit Treasurer's account.

*Mr. McGonnigle* :—In this connection, we have always had the custom that the committee on auditing accounts would fix an assessment, but during the last year we have had a committee on Poor Laws and they have incurred some unusual expenditures, and it might be well to appoint a finance committee to consider this matter of our expenditures, or will you allow this auditing committee to arrange for it? We will have to raise more money than heretofore.

Upon motion of Mr. Synder, it is agreed that a Finance Committee of three be appointed.

*Mr. McGonnigle* :—I move that a committee of five be appointed on resolutions. We haven't heretofore had a committee on resolutions, but Mr. Colborn and I in consulting together this summer thought well to have it, to which any resolution offered with reference to any papers to be read or any action to be taken be referred, and they can report it back again, so that we can get the matter into a little better shape than it has been. The motion is agreed to.

*President Colborn* :—The program provides for the establishment of a query box, and we have provided for one, and any one desiring to ask any question can reduce it to writing and place it in the box. We will appoint Col. Glenn, of Allegheny, as query master. This box will be opened fifteen minutes before each session. You have the right to refer the questions to any one, but where they are not referred specially the query master has the right to refer the question to some member to answer.

Upon motion the Convention here adjourned until 2 P. M.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Convention called to order by President Colborn.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Chapman, of Park church.

Our Father, great God of heaven and earth, we address thee as our maker, the author of our life, the source of our wisdom. Thou dost teach us how to live to our greatest advantage and to the highest end of existence; thou has taught us we have growth conditioned on activity. We pray for industry and thrift, and according as we have powers and gifts may we employ them to their increase. If we have but the one talent may we double it. And we pray, Oh Lord, that such as have gifts and power for growth and opportunity, and have improved them, and have secured strength and position may know how to use them in a Christ-like spirit, and for the benefit of our fellow men. Thou hast taught us to consider the poor; thou hast taught us who are strong to consider the weak, and thou dost require of us to bear each other burdens, and we ask that thou wilt bless this Convention in all the deliberations that concern the welfare of men, and as they deliberate upon the needs of the needy may there be wisdom in their thoughts, such wisdom as will become practical in the way of providing for them that need their help, and we pray that as a social organization we may have the unanimity and the magnanimity to consider all questions in the right spirit, and we pray, Oh Lord, for the spirit that will bring together the great body of humanity according to God's principles and laws, and may we be made common in brothership, inasmuch as we look to the common Father, and wilt thou guide us in wisdom that we may help to make the world beautiful by the influence of our Christian lives; be with all here this afternoon, and bless, for the great Saviour's sake and the sake of mankind in his name. Amen.

The President here announced the following committees:

*On Place of Meeting:*—Glenn, of Allegheny, Chairman; Dickey, of Somerset; Carr, of Fayette; Good, of Lancaster; Roland, of Berks.



*On Officers* :—Lawrence, of Philadelphia, Chairman ; Dunn, of Erie ; Swisher, of Chester ; Mrs. Frances Swan, of Lackawanna ; Cutchell, of Crawford.

*Auditing Committee* :—Keyser, Chairman, Philadelphia ; Reamer, of Westmoreland ; Etter, of Franklin ; Kearn, of Lehigh ; Wilson, of Beaver.

*Committee on Resolutions* :—McGonnigle, Chairman ; Kramer, of Cumberland ; McClean, of Adams ; Brumbaugh, of Blair ; Gould, of Erie.

*On Finance* :—Snyder, of Philadelphia, Chairman ; Worst, of Lancaster ; Kundall, of Washington.

*The President* :—These committees will report to-morrow afternoon, except the committee on resolutions who will report to-morrow night.

The first address was "Care and Prevention of Pauperism," but I had a letter from Col. Boies, of Scranton, stating that he had his paper prepared but could not be here, and I wrote him to forward his paper, and it may be here before we close. This is a subject we are interested in, and I would call upon my friend and great worker, Mr. McGonnigle, who is always ready when emergencies arise.

*Mr. McGonnigle* :—Mr. Chairman, I had not thought that I would have been called upon to take the place assigned on the program to Col. Boies, nor am I prepared to do so, but I suppose I will have to say something.

Through the courtesy of Mr. W. M. Stevenson, Librarian of the Allegheny Carnegie Library, I have had the pleasure recently of reading a work entitled "The Poor in Scotland," published by Rev. Robert Burns, in Edinburgh, 1819, and I was quite surprised to find that the various questions that are presenting themselves, and the difficulties we now have, and always have had, to provide and care for the poor in this State, in an equitable and proper manner—are almost identical with the difficulties which presented themselves in the earlier days, described in this same work. I take pleasure in presenting to you "The Poor of Scotland," as shown in this very interesting work.

On the establishment of the Protestant Reform religion in Scotland, in 1560, a system of doctrine or government was prepared, and certain officers were appointed for carrying on the work, under various departments or heads, and among the officials chosen were those of the "elders of the church."

In the earlier days the care of the poor was looked upon and considered an act of Christianity, and a sacred duty, and at the date of the reform movement the work was taken up as a part of the church, under the direction of elders, and was prosecuted with the same zeal that characterized all the work undertaken by the clergy and church at that period.

By several decisions of the Supreme Court, it was established that the care of the poor legally belonged to the "kirk session," consisting of the ministers, elders and deacons, and that they had exclusive claim on certain funds received from baptisms, etc., which were to be applied for the care and relief of the poor; one-half of all the collections made at the church doors, together with any voluntary contributions received, all of which funds were expended for the care of the poor of the parish, and when the funds received as above stated were not sufficient to care for the poor, they had power, by an Act of 1663 (Charles II.) to assess the parish to make up any deficiency, one-half of which was to be assessed upon the landlords, and the other half upon the tenants.

By several Acts of William and Mary, from 1692 to 1699, heritors (land-owners), ministers and elders were required to meet on the first Tuesday of February and August of each year, to make up a list of the poor of the parish, and to assess if necessary, as above, and to appoint overseers of the poor, who would expel all beggars. The "poor" persons were described as "those who may not win their living in other ways," and again as "poor, impotent and decayed persons who of necessity must live by alms."

The elders were expected to, and did consider themselves the guardians of the poor, and the work of looking after and caring for the poor of the parish was considered a part of their official duties. The elder was required to make himself known, and be well acquainted with the actual character, needs and condition of the parish poor, so that he might be able to discriminate between the worthy and unworthy applicants, many of whom would pretend their condition was much worse than it was, and would make known their wants in such a manner as to enlist sympathy, and were never satis-

fied with their allowance. The elders was expected to become thoroughly familiar with the various characters, and to adopt such means, by experience and other ways, as would determine the actual condition of affairs.

He was expected to have a list of the inhabitants of the district or quarter of the parish in which he resided, showing the age, employment, social condition, place of settlement, etc., of each inhabitant, and in case of their removal to another parish, to see that proper notice was given to the elder of the parish to which the party had moved, so that he could be informed of his previous history, etc.

They had three classes of applicants for relief :

One known as the "regular," one as the "occasional" poor, and a third class as "strangers." The first class or "regular" applicant was a permanent resident of the parish, and who received a regular weekly or monthly allowance, which, together with what labor they could perform, in addition to the relief received, gave them sufficient support.

The second class or "occasional" only received relief when in distress, and at times when deprived of their regular employment by sickness, accidents, etc.

The third class known as "strangers," were persons who had no settlement in the parish, and whose only claim was that of simple poverty and distress, who wandered about in an aimless way; in other words, it was the class that we now call "tramps," and with whom we are all well acquainted.

The elder was expected to visit the applicants frequently, to enable him to judge as to their actual condition, and make such suggestions as might tend to make them self-supporting. He was also required to attend each quarter session and compare notes with other elders, as to what method or plan could or should be adopted that would be beneficial to the parish, as well as to the applicants, and in this way have an interchange of views very similar to what we have in this Association.

From the above it will be seen that the duties of the elders of the church during the Reform period corresponded very closely with the duties of the directors or overseers of the poor in this State, and that they had the same difficulties to contend with in the distribution of relief that we now have. They had to sift out the worthy and unworthy, and to see that the worthy were given proper relief, that the statements of the applicants were traced up, and last but not least, we find the beggar or tramp giving some trouble.



So you see we are now here contending with, and trying to solve the same troublesome questions, that we find existed in Scotland four hundred years ago, and while it is true that during these four hundred years, the world has made the most wonderful advancement in science, art, and mechanics, in fact in every department in life, all of which tend to benefit and improve humanity, but in this particular social condition we are just where our Scotch friends appeared to be, and apparently the problem is not any nearer solution now than it was then.

This, to my mind, is rather striking, and a remarkable condition of things, and we should give our best thoughts to any remedy which may tend to change this condition, that has been at a stand-still during the last four centuries.

The method of providing the poor funds by voluntary contribution, etc., as above described, continued to be practiced generally in Scotland until about 1755, when for various reason, it was found that they could not depend upon voluntary contributions and the system of levying a poor tax upon the landlords and tenants in lieu of voluntary contributions, was generally adopted.

Where this change was made, the care of the poor in the parish, and the distribution of the funds, was placed in the hands of overseers of the poor, appointed by the heritors, who acted in connection with the heritors, elders and ministers, and so far as I am aware, this is substantially the method of caring for the poor in Scotland at this time.

It appears, however, it was soon discovered that there were some disadvantages about the distribution of the poor fund and tax assessed upon the parish that had not been apparent so long as the fund was raised by voluntary contribution. Persons to whom relief had previously been granted, now came forward and demanded relief, and insisted upon a much more liberal allowance than had heretofore been granted, basing their claim upon the ground that they were residents of the parish, and had contributed to the fund which had been raised for them, that they had a right to it, and they considered the poor fund a "bank," on which they were entitled to draw as they might see fit or proper.

How many Directors of the Poor in this State are there who have had the same demand made upon them for relief, and in the same independent manner? So you will observe that our situation in this respect has not improved during the past two or three centuries.



There was no almshouse provided for the poor in the earlier days, and all the relief granted was what we know as "out-door relief." I have no information as to when the first almshouse was erected in Scotland, but in 1740 an almshouse or workhouse was erected in Edinburgh, and the Board of Managers congratulated themselves, in their first annual report, that the inmates were all properly cared for, had proper diet, medical and all other attention that they required.

It was soon discovered, however, that the workhouse did not supply all the necessities of the case. They said: "Workhouses, almshouses and hospitals for the reception of the poor, as they are commonly managed, ought to be denounced as highly injurious, both to the interests of individuals and the good of society."

"They collect together masses of peoples distinguished by the greatest variety of character, a moral corruption develops, and accelerates as it proceeds, and the contagion spreads in every direction. In very populous towns they may be absolutely necessary, but even in these districts they must be considered as a necessary evil.

"Where they have been introduced to a very small extent, these institutions are by general consent branded as so many receptacles of vice and misery. The effect of this impression is that the good and virtuous part of the poor are in general determined to struggle on to the last extremity against all the hardships of an independent state, rather than condescend to ask or accept admittance.

"It is one of the incidental advantages of the poor house (or almshouse) when under proper regulation, that it keeps within bounds of moral restraint those who, if left to themselves, might become in the worse sense a burden on society."

While this statement may be somewhat exaggerated as to the character of the inmates, in comparison with the inmates of our almshouses of to-day, I think you will agree with me that in many instances the inmates of the almshouses are a very mixed class, and generally of such habits as to unfit them for habitation in any other place, and I know you will agree with me in the statement here made that the "virtuous part of the poor" will struggle on to the last before applying for admission to the almshouse, so that this condition of affairs in our State to-day is exactly as it was in Scotland four hundred years ago.

They also soon discovered that it was a very difficult matter to properly control and discipline the confused assemblage of persons of most opposite characters and dispositions, and very difficult to arrange any system of sub-division of the classes that are found in our alms-

houses, and that the want of proper superintendency was the one thing they very much lacked, and that the duties of the superintendent of an almshouse was a very trying and difficult one to fill.

All the inmates were expected to perform some labor, which some of them could and did do, but the majority would not work, and did not work, having some excuse, and when one excuse failed another was soon invented.

I am sure this state of affairs will compare with what you will find in any of the almshouses of this State to-day, so you will observe again that in one other particular our condition is just what Scotland's was in the fifteenth century.

Comparing the character of the inmates of almshouses, or "in-door" poor, with those of the session or "out-door" poor, we find that many of the latter class were members of churches, and attended all the church services regularly; they were quiet and orderly; that many of them had had reverses in life, and were reduced by circumstances over which they had no control, and thus forced to apply for public aid.

These were an entirely different class from the regular inmates of the almshouses, and to compel all the out door relief poor class to seek shelter in the almshouse would be doing them an injustice, so the practice was continued of granting out-door relief in the shape of a few shillings a month to the better and more worthy class of applicants, who were able in a measure to support themselves in their homes and among their friends.

The granting of out-door relief to this class of persons is in practice now all over this State. I have no doubt that the character of those receiving this out-door relief to-day will compare very favorably with that of the people who were on "the session list" receiving "out-door relief" in Scotland during the fifteenth century, so that again we have a comparison of conditions.

For some years after the establishment of the workhouse at Edinburgh, it was especially noticable that the expenses of the workhouse or almshouse, continued to increase, showing that the distribution of out-door relief did not tend to diminish the cost of the almshouse expenditure, and finally the question as to where the expenditures would stop, became such a serious one, that the Board of Managers decided to adopt a very radical measure. "The Managers at this time resolved, if possible, to get rid of this burden by making an offer to receive the whole number of "out-door relief" applicants into the house. Had the offer been accepted by all, there would not have

been accommodations for above one-half, but the fact turned out to be, that of the whole number *only nine accepted the offer*, and thus the establishment was at once cleared of the burden of supporting the rest. In adopting this arrangement, the managers knew very well what the result would be, and they calculated on the assumption that comparatively few would accept of the offer that was made them. But it did by no means follow from the result experienced, that all those who declined to accept the offer of a place in the almshouse, were on that account proved not to be suitable objects of parochial relief. They might be suitable objects, or they might not. Various causes might induce an industrious man and his family to accept a small weekly sum, while the same cause might not by any means lead him to ask admittance to the almshouse. We can well believe that a high-spirited Scotchman, his wife and family, would rather struggle on to the last, than go to the parish workhouse.

Indeed, it would have been very strange and very lamentable had the result in the present instance been different from what it was. Had the whole body of pensioners accepted the proposition that was made to them, a melancholy view would have been exhibited of the state of Scotland at that time. We should be thankful that although the spirit of independence has of late years rapidly diminished, it has not yet so diminished as to permit the stated or occasional recipient of parochial bounty to enter without reluctance within the wall of the poor house. The aversion to becoming inmates of the poor house is a favorable symptom among us, and we would deprecate extremely that short sighted policy which would tempt the victim of poverty to overcome this aversion, or perish for want."

In many counties of this State, the question of out door relief expenditures, in connection with the almshouse expenditure, has become a very serious and perplexing one, and in some of the counties it has been decided that no out-door relief should be granted, and that all of the applicants should be required to go to the almshouse.

Where this rule has been put in force, they have had the same experience as our Scotch friends seem to have had in the last century, namely: that the applicants for out-door relief would not accept admission to the almshouse, and in this way the expenditure for "out-door relief" has been very much decreased, but it is doubtful whether this method will probably provide properly for the relief of the poor in the district, and it is generally the rule that the distribution of out-door relief to a limited extent should go hand-in-hand with the proper almshouse organization, so that again we have a comparison with our Scotch friends that is very striking.



To me it is certainly very remarkable that the method of providing and caring for the poor in this State is practically what we find in vogue in Scotland three or four centuries ago, and that the paupers of to-day are substantially the same class that were a charge upon the parishes in the centuries past.

*Col. Gould*, moved that the discussion of this subject be postponed until after the regular order of the program has been gone through with. And it is agreed to.

*President Colborn*: I have an announcement here from Maj. Tyson, of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home.

The Secretary read the following invitation from Wm. W. Tyson, commander of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home:

LEWIS C. COLBORN, *President of the Association of Poor Directors, of Pennsylvania.*

Dear Sir:—I have the honor to extend to you, and the members of the Association of Poor Directors, an invitation to hold a session of your society in the chapel of the Home, at such time as may seem best. We are extremely anxious to have every member of the Association visit the Home during their stay in Erie.

Very truly yours,

W. W. TYSON, *Commander.*

Upon motion of Mr. McGonnigle, the invitation of Maj. Tyson, is received and accepted.

*Col. Gould*: An expression has been had from a large number of delegates, both before coming here and since coming, that when they came to Erie, they wished to visit the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, and we should be sorry to have any convention come here and not visit it. It is not only the pride of the State, but a credit to the State of Pennsylvania, because it ranks first among Soldiers' Homes, in the United States, and they have a chapel that is a fine place to hold a session, and it is suggested that we go there to-morrow morning and hold our morning session there. The members can visit the institution and see it as it is; there will be no preparation made for you; you will see it when you go just as you see it every day in the year. The local Committee of Arrangements have made preparations to pay your fare down and back on the street cars.



On motion of Mr. McGonnigle, it is agreed to go the Soldiers' Home, to-morrow morning to hold a session there at 9.30 A. M., and for the members desiring to go there to meet at the sixth street cars at 8.30 A. M.

Mr. McGonnigle reads the following invitation from Clark's Business College, Erie, Pa.

October 11th, 1892.

*To the Members of the State Convention of the Directors of the Poor:*

GENTLEMEN:—You are cordially invited to visit our rooms in the new Downing Block, corner of Ninth and State streets, at such time as will suit your convenience, and we shall take pleasure in giving you an opportunity to see the city of Erie, from the College windows, which is the most desirable place to obtain a clear idea of the magnitude and beauty of the "City by the Lakes."

Very respectfully yours,

CLARK'S BUSINESS COLLEGE,

H. C. CLARK, *President.*

On motion the invitation is accepted.

*Col. Gould:* At the request of delegates and members of the convention arrangements have been made to run a special train from here to Niagara Falls, on Thursday, at the low rate of \$1.75 for the round trip. The train will leave at 9 o'clock, local time, and will leave Niagara Falls, at 7 P. M., but those who desire can remain there longer. We desire to know how many will go. This is done for the benefit of this Association, but it is also free to citizens who desire to go. We had to guarantee, on the part of the local committee, that seventy-five would go. The road required of the agent one hundred, and the agent guaranteed the other twenty-five himself. If the boats are still running to Toronto, by paying an additional dollar you can go there and back. I would like to have all who desire to go rise so that we will have some idea of the number to be provided for.

*Col. Gould:* On behalf of the Committee on Arrangements I will announce that those who desire to visit the Almshouse—the committee have made a report that there is no time to go there, and so we have arranged for cars to run from the union depot to the Almshouse, at 9 o'clock, on Thursday morning, so that all who do not go to the Falls may go there.

*Col. Gould:* The Committee of Arrangements, and the ladies and gentlemen of the city of Erie, desire to give an expression of their good will to the delegates of the Convention, and have arranged to have a public reception at the Reed House, to the delegates of the Convention, to morrow night at 8.30 o'clock. There will be light refreshments and some music, etc., and the people desire to meet you and to become acquainted with you.

*Mr. McClean,* (Adams County): I would like to ask one question of Col. Gould, and that is if small parties wishing to visit the Almshouse this afternoon, how they can get there.

*Col. Gould:* There is no way of going but to drive.

*President Colborn:* We desire everyone to remain here and enjoy the good things of this Convention.

The duett "*Io viro etamo*," by Campana, was here very beautifully sung by the Misses Camphausen, of Erie, and in response to an encore they sang "We two when we parted." They were accompanied by Miss Brevillier.

The next on the program is "Work of the Association," by W. F. Shepard, of Pottsville.

*Mr. Shephard:* Ladies and gentlemen, members of the Convention: When I was asked by Col. Gould, if I had my address prepared I told him that my time had been so taken up that I hadn't prepared any written address, but I have outlined in my mind what I propose to say to this Convention. I don't know whether I could have said it had it not been for the very excellent music we have just heard. I would have been much better pleased had some one been selected who had been connected with this Association since its inception, but I have been assigned this duty and I will endeavor to perform it to the best of my ability.

Commencing about eighteen years ago this Association has grown and developed until it has become a mighty power for good in this State. This great State, the keystone of the federal arch. It seems strange that in a State like this, rich in all her resources, with her arteries of anthracite, and her veins of lime-

stone and marble, and the Alleghenies traversing her center, from which stretch out great ribs of iron, and with the millions of capital to utilize her resources that we should have the poor of this State that we have. But yet they are with us and will be until time is no more. And some of them are families or portions of families who helped put the rebellion down and saved our country.

When civil war shook the government to its foundations, and the land shook with the tread of marching men, these men carried the standards, the heads of families now in the poor house. Shall we forget such men, or the families of such men? We never should, and all provisions that can be made for them should be made.

The ambition that moves the members of this Association is a very laudable one. It is not the ambition of a military chieftain or a conquering hero; it is the ambition to take an aged man or woman who is found in destitution and take them to a home to be sustained by charity. Years before this Association, and almost until the beginning of it there was a sentiment

“Hustle his bones over the stones,  
For he is only a pauper that no one owns.”

But that is changed, you go to the almshouses and you will see that it is changed. Those inmates there, if you go there will be ready to give you shouts of hearty welcome, and to strew flowers in your pathway, and they would if they could, light up your pathway in life with the cheering light of flaming torches.

They would if they could, carry a transparency with an inscription that would show how lovingly they bear you in their hearts.

This Association has labored and is laboring now to make these institutions places not to be dreaded but places to be sought by the destitute. Places where, when an inmate enters its portals a band could strike up the air “Home, sweet home.” Away in yonder studio, buried in thought while others are buried in sleep, sits one who may yet entrance the world with thoughts that breathe and words that burn, to develop a plan whereby the feeble-minded will receive a better education than ever before. Yonder, too, trimming the midnight taper may be seen one whose inventive genius may prove to the world that the now greatest

must wait for even a greater than he, in the development of a plan that will bring about better poor house administration than we ever had in this land.

Yonder, too, unknown to fortune or to fame is one who, in strains sweet as angels use, may yet unfold a plan whereby the mysteries of our holy religion will be better understood in these institutions.

In 1889 the commission that was appointed by Gov. Beaver, organized under the Act of Assembly, at the convention held in Lancaster that committee made its report. At a convention held at Reading a committee was appointed to prepare a bill to present to the next legislature. This Committee, you will understand, was for the revision and modification of the Poor Laws of Pennsylvania. This Committee is here with their report and it will be given to the Convention to-morrow morning, so you will know what they have been doing. This has cost this Committee some little time and thought, in order that they might present a report to this Convention that would in its features be acceptable. We have at least tried to perform our duty—I being one of the Committee—but the action of the members of this Committee is in response to a high duty; a duty that every man owes to his fellow man. We will present the bill for your consideration; and you will determine whether or not it is a proper one.

I cannot go into the detail of the work done by this body, but it has endeavored to do that which is for the benefit of the poor, for the amelioration of the condition of the poor in Pennsylvania, and when we have done that, we have at least done what we could do in that respect.

There are several types of human kind found in poor houses. One is where a man is broken down by accident, one who has been frugal and honest, and conscientious and industrious. The Association has labored and is laboring to make provision in such a case different from others. His family has become a public charge, and added to his physical pain there is the bitter humiliation on his part that he has become, with his loved ones, a pauper.

Another type is where a party through his own vice and indiscretion has been brought there. The Association has labored and is laboring to have a superintendent in charge who will, in the



first instance be a friend, an adviser and a guardian to such a man. Who will take his children and provide them with Christian homes, and see by that provision that they grow up honest, conscientious and upright citizens, and that the wife secures employment, to the end that this family may be in time re-united and made happy. In the seconded type that I have mentioned it is calculated that the superintendent shall be a spiritual comforter; provide for his spiritual welfare in the Institution so that he may be prepared for the hereafter—that the immortal part of the human wreck may be prepared for the world to come.

These things this Association through its members have sought to bring about, and they have brought about in institutions, to my knowledge in this State, and they are worked upon that principle.

Now there are various opinions as to out-door relief; the action of this Association with reference to that has been of course various. I have my views about it, and they may not be the views of others. Take a case where a man goes from his home in the morning and leaves his family at home, as near and dear to him as his life, and he is brought home on a stretcher, the result of an accident—why shouldn't that man and his family receive temporary relief, if it would tide over the situation?

Cases of that character present themselves almost daily in our county, and it would be a great hardship to put that family in the poor house when perhaps a little temporary relief would prevent that stigma from falling upon them. I know there are arguments upon both sides; I have heard them in the Convention, but its members, however they may view this question of out-door relief are in the main, trying to work harmoniously together to devise plans so that these poor and unfortunate may receive the relief that they deserve at the hands of the people, and I claim it is our duty, those of us who are possessed of health and strength, and with the means too, to see that the destitute are taken care of in this land—of course guarding against imposition, but take care of the destitute. Let us pull our purse strings and help them. There is nothing impossible. Let us have true heroism in this work; the heroism of the colored man, who said that if the Lord told him to jump through a wall he wouldn't

be responsible for jumping through, but he would jump. Let us be like the Roman sentinel, who stood at the gates of Pompeii with the ashes of 1800 years piled about him, and we will come out like him. After 1800 years there was renown for him, and we will acquire the same if we do what we ought, earnestly and conscientiously in this great work.

Now what more can I say? Each and every one of you knows exactly what pauperism means in this State, and there is but one way to provide for it, and that is out of the taxes that are levied, unless it is voluntary. We are met here to devise means for the better government of our institutions, and the better protection of our poor, and for the better protection and care of every one connected with the Homes, and I say in conclusion,

"Speak gently, kindly of the poor,  
Let no harsh term be heard:  
They have enough they must endure,  
Without an unkind word."

(Applause.)

*President*:—We have with us to-day Dr. Curwen, Superintendent of the Warren Hospital for the Insane, who will address us on the subject of the Chronic Insane.

*Dr. Curwen*: The subject is so extensive I propose to touch only a small part of it. First, I wish you to get a clear understanding of what we mean by "chronic insane." People talk of the incurable insane, and all those terms.

My definition of "chronic insane," is a man or woman who is insane for a period of years, say two at least, not less than that, and who has gone through a course of treatment probably, or not—a great majority unfortunately have had no treatment, and that class naturally settle into a condition that we call chronic.

There may be those in this class who in time may be restored, therefore never use the word incurable without you have the certain evidence of some disordered condition which cannot be removed. "Chronic" means simply the length of time that the individual has been insane. They may be of all classes and conditions. I propose to give my views simply as to the different classes into which the chronic insane should be divided. I divide them into three classes, and give my views as I go along.

The first class are those who are violent and subject to periodical attacks, and included in that will be classed all epileptics who have become insane. Now there is no worse disease than epilepsy, terminating in mental disorder. Neither man or woman know what they are doing in these cases, when they become violently excited. They are dangerous in every sense of the word. They are perfectly blind to everything about them, and therefore dangerous in every way. But the majority of the class of chronic insane, of this first class, are those subject to epileptic attacks of excitement. They may come every week, or month, or three months, and so on with a long list of these, and at times they may be very dangerous. They require a certain amount of restraint, for their own protection as well as those about them, and therefore careful attention. Watching their condition and examining their peculiar state and knowing just how they act and do.

In the case of epileptics I wish to mention one peculiarity; that a man or women who becomes epileptic and their mind disordered, if they have an attack to-day and fall into a certain train of thought, or action, the very next turn that comes they follow that same course. They follow in an invariable course what they did or said the first time. These periodical attacks of mental disorder are very peculiar and singular, and differ with each individual. No two are alike. I wish to impress that distinctly on your minds. There may be traces of resemblance but you carry it all through and they are not alike. No two persons have the same temper or disposition. This class must have special provision.

Then you take the second class, they are restless, excitable and mischievous. Never quiet. Sometimes going all day and part of the night. They are not, in a sense of the word violently excited, but in that state of mind or nervous irritability which will lead them to do all kinds of things to the annoyance of those around them. Then the mischievous condition is the worst of all. They are playing tricks on others and doing mischief to the furniture and everything about the place where they may be.

Then there is a third class you will find, the quiet and the careless; those who have gone down from an excited condition into a dull, apathetic condition, without any apparent mental power, careless and indifferent in every way, and living an animal life, with scarcely any appreciable mental power. They constitute the third class.



Now each class requires, of course, separate care and treatment. You cannot put them together, for the reason that the quiet will be injured and disturbed, and the violent must be kept separate. And the second class must be so placed as not to annoy the others.

You see the condition it brings us to. A provision which will cover every case, which will as far as possible make ample provision for every contingency that may arise. These contingencies arise unexpectedly, and sometimes to the utter amazement of everyone except those who are familiar with their condition. Those who have been among the insane any length of time know that certain appearances or symptoms which they discern quickly precede an attack of violent excitement, and they make preparation accordingly.

Persons who first see them wonder why they start off in that condition in that way, but those who know exactly what their condition is, know by certain words or actions that an attack is coming on.

Now the majority of all the patients in every hospital for the insane in the Commonwealth belong to this chronic class. Unfortunately it is too true. I have over 800 under my care and not more than seventy-five with any probability of being any better. I went over the list last week to find out how many could be cured. That is a fearful statement to make, but it is a true statement and it applies to every institution in the land. There is not an institution in Pennsylvania to-day that hasn't its wards overcrowded with insane so as to make it inconvenient and uncomfortable to those there.

Now these must be kept in apartments calculated to protect them from harm and those about them from harm, and to prevent their doing mischief and trouble, and destruction to the building. For many of them are so destructive that it requires constant vigilance to prevent their doing damage to the property continually.

Now the question has come up and is coming up all the time, how to manage these things. Now let me give you an experience in New York. About thirty years ago a gentleman in New York, interested himself in the care of the chronic insane, and he worked in the Legislature until they decided to put up an institution on Seneca Lake, for the chronic insane in the poor houses of the State of New York ; that institution was started and it was en-



larged and enlarged, until two years ago it had more than two thousand in. More than any mortal ought to be asked to take charge of, and the superintendent expressed himself so to me.

Now I have very distinct ideas about the care of the insane. I believe, and I have always tried to go on the principle that being placed in charge of a large number of insane it is my duty to know each day the condition of each one of them, not trusting to any one else to learn it. Until the last month or so I have seen every patient under my care every day in the week, regularly and systematically. I have now to take one class of patients one day and another next, so I see them all, anyway three times a week.

This is the feeling of most superintendents. The institution that I spoke of in New York State, found it impossible to keep all the patients there, and authority was given to the different counties to put up institutions of their own. Monroe county put up an institution and two years ago they had over 300 in it and then the Legislature converted it into a State institution, and other counties in New York were empowered to do the same thing; and about the same time the institution at Binghamton, built at first for inebriates, became useless for that and the State took that also for the chronic insane, and there were about 1,100 there two years ago, and more than that now.

It has gone on, until finally two years ago the State of New York, after an examination of many of the poor houses, decided to assume the whole care of the insane, and put them into institutions in different portions of the State. They passed a law, but unfortunately they forgot to make the appropriation necessary for the additional buildings, for at that time every institution was overcrowded. It is not a very comfortable thing to have to put into a room designed for half-a-dozen, a dozen people. That was the condition there, and New York State isn't quite free from the trouble yet. It will be some years yet before they are. Now, that being the case in New York, and taking that experience as our guide, what should we do in Pennsylvania?

My own opinion is positive and distinct about it, and I propose to give it for what it is worth, and you can think of it.

We have a hospital at Norristown and another one at Danville, and the Philadelphia Almshouse, about 800, and they are now building near Reading another institution for the chronic insane,

and that institution will, I suppose, be extended to hold a very large number. That institution, if finished to-day, would only relieve the pressure in the other hospitals in that part of the State. Danville has a thousand and more patients in it now, and there should not be more than 800. In one large room in that hospital—I haven't seen it myself, but a gentleman a day or two ago who had been there—there were 75 patients put in a place where there shouldn't have been more than 25, so far as their own comfort is concerned. It was a necessity, and had to be done.

There is a hospital at Warren, with 800, and at Dixmont with 700 or 800, and in the county of Allegheny with 200 more. Where are they to go? Now, my idea is, that the State—and it is able to it—put up two additional institutions in this western part of the Commonwealth, somewhere between the Susquehanna and the Allegheny mountains, to accommodate the northern and western sections, and so construct them as to give ample room for the present crowded condition of the hospitals at Dixmont and Warren, and accommodate the future.

A gentleman said to me, "you take these people and they die off after a while," but they don't. They seem to live longer than ordinary people. But it seems to me, that with the resources of this Commonwealth, and the present need of some provision of this kind, the safest and best way would be to make these two large hospitals. It has been proposed to send them all back to the counties from which they came. How are some of the counties to take care of them? Some of them have no poor houses, and they will have to build them, and if the State is the guardian of the insane, or if the insane are the wards of the State, isn't the State in duty bound to make proper provision for them itself? That seems to me the proper way to do. (Applause.)

*President Colborn:* I am requested to announce that the Children's Aid Society will have a special meeting to make arrangement for their work, at the parlors of the Reed House, at a quarter after four o'clock.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Dr. Curwen has been until recently a member of the commission that was to select a site and erect a hospital for the chronic insane, and as that site has been selected in the eastern part of the State, many of the western members are not

at all familiar with the intent of that work. I mean by that that I think there are some of us who understand that that hospital was intended to take care of the chronic insane especially, and that the maintenance of the insane was to be paid for at a lower rate than is charged now in the present hospitals. In other words, it will be a little better and cheaper method of taking care of this class of insane, and I would ask the doctor to explain that. I agree with him that the hospital there is only going to take care of that particular locality, and will not be of any especial benefit to the west and northwestern parts of the State.

*Dr. Curwen :* That institution was designed especially for the chronic insane, in the wards of the law, and the selection has shown very distinctly, I think, that it was designed for the eastern section of the State, and not the western. In fact I may use an expression made to me some two years ago, that that bill never was designed to relieve Dixmont or Warren.

Now that institution cannot do more than to accommodate the institutions east of the Susquehanna, including Danville, for that is on the western shore of the Susquehanna. It is about 60 miles from Danville, and about 49 from Harrisburg, and about 50 from Norristown, and 70 from Philadelphia, and by the time it is completed, say three years, and I don't think it can be finished by that time, the other hospitals will again be full, and they will have to enlarge that. So there is no chance in the western part of the State to receive anything from it. Now, I don't believe in cheap hospitals; they are the most expensive you can put up. You have to be repairing and repairing from year to year, until you spend more in a few years than would have been originally expended in the construction of an institution that was thoroughly put together. I speak from experience, and if you want to know what I mean exactly, I invite you to visit the hospital at Warren, that has been standing there eleven years, and hasn't cost the Commonwealth \$5,000 for all the repairs that have been made to it, and there are other institutions where \$5,000 each year wouldn't commence to cover the amount. So the only economical way is to build a solid, substantial building, which will not be required to be fixed all the time. The only repairs at Warren have been on account of the destructive propensities of the patients.



Some years it will cost \$200 or \$300 for repairs, and some years more. I want to impress upon you the firm conviction that experience has taught me, that cheap buildings are the most expensive ones that you can put up.

*Mr. Biddle*, (Agent Board of Public Charities): I feel that I ought to say a word now. The last Legislature were very much impressed with the necessity of doing something to provide for the overcrowded condition of the insane hospitals of Pennsylvania. We had our attention called to it by the Governor, and a great deal of serious thought was given to it by the Lunacy Committee of the State, and afterwards the State Board of Charities. The result of the deliberations of those two bodies was that we went before the Legislature and presented to the Legislature three distinct bills, one bill to provide for the care and treatment of the chronic insane in a State asylum. It was very evident on frequent visits to those asylums, that there were distinct classes in the State hospitals, so called. We saw many who required medical treatment, and an expensive system of treatment, which should be given them no matter how much it cost, in order to restore them to their reason; no matter how poor they might be, if there was a chance that their reason could be restored they were entitled to be again enthroned in reason. On the other hand we saw a large number of patients who required little or no care, a class that every one has seen in his own poor house. In Adams county they have them where they are treating them for very little cost. They have a number of them at the City Farm in Pittsburgh and in Bedford county, and a number at the Allegheny hospital in Allegheny. A class that no medical treatment does any good; a class that I think Dr. Curwen can feed very much with mush.

*Dr. Curwen* :—We never “mush” them.

*Mr. Biddle* :—They should put up a building as substantial as the best that Pennsylvania has now, but which should not consist of fine architectural adornment. It should be for the care of the chronic insane who can be benefited by care and treatment. The epileptics who fall—those that require to be looked after, no matter whether or not they are incurable. We have hospitals for



the incurables. But we have hundreds in our State hospitals who would be benefited by working on farms, who could go out and merely require a home in which to pass their time. We recommend the State legislature that it should put up a building to take this class from the different hospitals, and place them where they would require little or no medical attention, and where they could be self-supporting. The legislature adopted that suggestion and passed a bill providing for the erection of the hospital at Warnersville. One of the conditions of that Act is that every patient has to have been previously admitted and decided upon at a State hospital to be an incurable chronic, who is neither violent or dangerous, and who will take little or no care.

Every one of the State hospitals are entitled to send. Dr. Curwen's institution can send there, under that Act as much as the doctor at Danville, or Norristown, or Dixmont.

We then recommended the passage of another Act which the legislature passed with great unanimity, and which would have solved this question I think more satisfactorily than any other method, which was that whenever a county provided such a place for the care of its chronic insane as would be approved by the Committee on Lunacy, that said county should be licensed to take care of its chronic insane, such as they now take, and it is excellent care. At the Pittsburgh City Farm, and the Allegheny City Home, and at the Blockly Almshouse, and at Adams, and Bedford, and Lancaster counties—that those counties that were bearing that entire expense themselves and receiving nothing from the State—that so long as they put up at their own expense those buildings, and cared for those inmates as well as they could be cared for anywhere—and from having visited them frequently I say now that the insane are nowhere better cared for than they are in those buildings, and several others I can mention,—that those counties should receive from the State treasury \$1.75 a week for each patient so treated in the county home.

We have twenty counties in which there is no poor house. They send to the State hospitals the chronic and the acute together. The State hospitals charge the State not exceeding \$2, while the county pays \$1.75. They have all their insane treated at a partial expense to the State. Where the counties care for the insane they don't get a cent from the State. Now the prop-

osition we made was that the State should give to such counties as would properly provide for their care, an amount which would equalize matters and pay to the county that was already caring for its insane an equivalent for that it paid to the counties that made no provision and for whose insane they cared for. That bill was passed almost unanimously. Unfortunately when the Governor received it he said that he could sign but one bill; that that would take a large revenue from the State, and that this bill for erecting an insane asylum was to cost the State \$500,000 and that was enough for one session, and therefore he voted the other bill.

Then in addition to that we prepared and gave to the legislature a bill for the erection of an insane criminal hospital. Every one of our State hospitals have in them men who have been convicted of crime, and who committed their crime while they were sane, and afterwards became insane, and the law provides that whenever, in any jail or penitentiary of this State a prisoner is found to be insane the Superintendent or the Warden may go before the court and have a commission appointed, and have the prisoner sent to the northern State hospital. Now nearly every county and the penitentiaries have availed themselves of that. Sometimes these men have feigned insanity, in order to be sent to the State hospitals. Massachusetts and New York have hospitals for their criminal insane.

Dr. Curwen is making a mistake. If he had remained on that commission a few months longer and given them the benefit of his advice—and I know of no one in whom I have more confidence in matters of insanity than in him—he would have found that the plans and specifications for that building that were submitted to the several contractors, and there were sixteen of them, were for as substantial a building as any in the State. It is very much like the building Blair county is erecting. You will remember I said we didn't want in those institutions any unnecessary expense for mere outward adornment. Everything for the comfort of the inmates, but nothing superfluous—that was the character of the plans that were given to the contractors. And I say without hesitation that if that building is erected under the plans, as I am assured it will be, there will not be a more substantial building for the insane in the State of Pennsylvania.

It is true it is not divided into single sleeping rooms such as you would give an acute case, but it was thought we could put twenty or thirty chronics into one ward where they could be under the supervision of one person, and it would require very few doctors and nurses, and that it would be very inexpensive, and we all know that the administrative part of a hospital is by all odds the most expensive. Why shouldn't Adams and Lancaster and many other counties that can do so take care of this class? Let me tell you a story. A prominent party came to me and says, "We have in our county poor house a man who has been there a number of years; his poor mother works in the neighboring town some six miles from the poor house, he is perfectly harmless and he laughs when I go to see him, for he cannot say anything, but he has been ordered to the Norristown Asylum because they were not properly equipped to take care of the insane here, and three weeks ago to Norristown he went, there he is. The poor mother made \$3 a week washing and two or three times a week she was in the habit of going out on the turnpike leading to the county home, every farmer knew her and she would only have to wait a few minutes before one of their teams would take her there, her son was delighted to see her, and when she was through with her visit she was taken back without any cost to her. Now he has been sent to Norristown. It costs \$2 to go there, and when she goes from the depot there she has a mile and a half to walk and no one knows her and when she gets there they have nearly 2,000 inmates, and the consequence is she cannot afford to go, and if she could she would not be welcome, and she never sees her son, and the poor fellow is heart broken and so is the mother." And then he says "now can you tell me the reason why that poor fellow was taken away." The county homes have in many cases made provision for such cases as that. And there is no reason why such cases should be sent to the State hospitals at \$4 a week, and if the State would give \$1.25 a week for such cases how often have I heard the stewards say that they could take as good care of them, but that they had been ordered out.

Go with me to Reading. They have to-day two two-story brick buildings with every appliance for making them comfortable and they have been vacant for the last six years. Reading have sent all their insane to Norristown. They could take fifty of the over-



crowded insane of this class that want no care, and the doctor knows he has got lots of them, and that is the class we want to take care of in the counties, by the county authorities. It is more human. There was a resolution passed a few years ago and I think Dr. Curwin was a member of the body that passed it, that no hospital for the insane should at any time have more than 250 inmates under its care. They afterwards limited it to 300. But shortly afterwards a bill was introduced to exactly duplicate the Norristown Asylum, so that they might have 4,000 insane treated there. I opposed that bill, went to the members and begged of them on the ground that the bringing together of that number that there was no superintendent but what would lose the individuality necessary in such institutions, and we succeeded in defeating it. But Governor Hartranft and a great many others thought it would be better to duplicate that institution rather to do anything else for the care of the insane. But I must apologize for taking so much of your time. (Applause.)

*Dr. Curwen:* I don't want you to think that I feed my patients on mush and milk. It is bread and milk, the best that can be had, for those poor souls who cannot swallow meat, etc. The majority of them live on the best food we can get in the neighborhood.

Now my friend didn't carry out the idea as far as he might; referring to the association of superintendents of hospitals; they passed a resolution in 1852 that 200 was the preferable number, and it might be extended to 300; about twenty years after that or about that, at the vote of a small majority it was extended to 600 or 800. I voted against that number. I don't believe in large hospitals, where a man cannot give proper attention to it.

*Mr. Lawrence, (of Philadelphia):* As there might be some misunderstandings I desire to correct some statements. Dr. Curwen Curwen says there are about 800 insane people in Blockley Almshouse. There are 950. I desire to say that when he speaks of the hospital for the chronic insane being designated for the eastern section that we have been given to understand very distinctly we were not expected to put any in there from Blockley Almshouse. Also, that during the last eighteen months we have spent a quarter of a million dollars increasing the accommodations for the insane



in our institution simply because we were crowded. The county of Philadelphia contributes about one-third of all the money into the treasury of the State of Pennsylvania, and not one cent of it comes back into the county of Philadelphia for the support of the insane of that county.

We had a fire in the insane department there in 1885 and it necessitated the removal of a number to the various State hospitals. Since we put up this quarter of a million, within the last two months they have sent back sixty-five patients from the Danville hospital, we have been paying their board ever since they were out of Blockley and sustaining the insane of our county at the same time, and I think it would be a valuable addition to the laws of this State if you passed an act that the counties who support their insane entirely should be reimbursed by the State proportionately. Reading has been cited; for instance, they send all their insane to the State hospitals. They have a building there empty, as Mr. Biddle says. Now it is rather inconsistent to ask the counties to contribute \$1.75 a week, which we do for the support of everyone we have in the State insane asylums—we contribute \$1.75 a week, and you ask the State to contribute \$1.25 a week—or in other words an admission that costs \$3 a week to support them in the State insane asylums and only \$2.25 a week in the county asylums, and yet in the same breath we are told that they are as well taken care of in Blockley—and I make the assertion that they are as well taken care of as in any county poor house or any other institution in the United States. (Applause.)

Now we only ask what is just. I don't want the intimation to go out that this building is being erected to accommodate Philadelphia or any other part of the State. Gentlemen high in authority have given me to understand that it don't cover the chronic insane that we have in the county of Philadelphia. This is to provide for counties that haven't any almshouse of their own. Several of the counties have their own, and I think that is one of the important things for this Convention to do, to ask the legislature to pass that law that the Governor of Pennsylvania saw fit to veto. I hope such a resolution will be adopted by this Convention.

*Mr. Rieser*, (of Reading)—I will say with reference to Berks county and the institution at Reading that the reason we do not keep any insane in the buildings there is because they were condemned by the Board of Public Charities and it wouldn't be safe. (Laughter.)

Besides the county of Berks don't feel like investing a lot of money in rebuilding, when the State takes care of them about as cheaply as we can. But I have no doubt if this law passed, Berks county would refit the buildings and take care of their insane.

*President Colborn* :—The next is the opening of the query box.

*Col. Glenn*, (of Allegheny)—There is but one query, and that is, "who is benefited by the visitation of the Grand Jury at the almshouses?"

*Mr. Brumbaugh*, (of Blair)—I am pleased to know that that question has been submitted to the Association. We concluded long ago that a frequent visitation was unnecessary, and our Board in Blair county passed a resolution of that kind and gave the grand jury to understand that they only wanted them to make one visit during the year. The visits are always made hurriedly. Of course the recommendations for public buildings, and bridges, and public improvements are generally made by the grand jury, and I think in that way they have come to visit our almshouses, but I cannot see why it is that year after year and session after session they should do so when they do not go around and inspect the bridges in the county. Of course we cannot remodel our buildings, etc., without a suggestion from the grand juries and they recommend it to the court, and nothing can be done without they do recommend it; but I don't think they should go as frequently as they do, but I don't know how we can do otherwise, as the law is, but to let this continue, unless you have some other body delegated to make these recommendations.

*Mr. Lawrence*, (of Philadelphia)—I understood him to say the visits are made hurriedly. I would like to ask if they don't remain long enough to take a little lunch?

*Mr. Brumbaugh*:—They generally do, but somehow it is always ready, and they take it at once and depart.

*A Voice*:—Then who is benefited?

*Mr. Brumbaugh*:—Why, the grand jury.

Mr. Hunker offered the following, which was referred to the Committee on Resolutions:

*“Resolved, That it is the sense of this Convention that the poor districts caring for their own insane, should be re-imbursed for their care and maintenance by the State, and that the Committee on Legislation prepare a bill to be offered at the next meeting of the legislature, to make provision for the same.”*

Mr. McGonnigle offered the following, which was referred to the Committee on Resolutions:

*“Resolved, That the Committee on Legislation be authorized and instructed to have prepared an Act, providing for the erection by the State, of sufficient and proper hospital accommodations for the care and treatment of all the insane.”*

Both resolutions are referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

President Colborn here announced that the Committee on Resolutions would meet in room 14 at the Reed House to-morrow evening at five o'clock.

Also that the members of the Legislative Committee meet in the grand jury room at the court house this evening at seven o'clock.

The Convention here adjourned until 7:30 this evening.

## EVENING SESSION.

The Convention was called to order by President Colborn.

Prayer by Rev. J. M. Bray, audience standing.

Oh God, how excellent is thy name in all the world. Thou hast made us, and not we ourselves; we are thy people and the sheep of thy pastures; we invoke thy divine blessing upon us here and now, since without thy blessing all that we undertake may be in vain, and we especially implore thy divine blessing upon this assemblage, and we thank thee for this day and its blessings, and we ask thy divine blessing upon the purposes for which this Convention has come together. Especially remember the institutions that have for their object the benefactions of the poor, and remember the efforts that are being made in every direction to maintain these benign institutions in our midst. We implore thy blessing upon those who have charge of such institutions, for the patience and long suffering of those that minister unto them. We pray that they may have not only wisdom and strength, but that they may have the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, who went about doing good. We ask thy blessing upon all the directors of the poor of this Commonwealth, and those that are specially represented here, and in the deliberations that look towards legislation, and towards enlisting the sympathy and co-operation of the people, and in every enterprise that they may have in hand, and upon the officers of this Association, and upon all who are here; and we pray that means may not only be devised to take care of the poor, and the blind, and the deaf, and the dumb, and the insane, and the orphan children, but that there may be some means devised by which poverty may be prevented. Guide us in these deliberations, and may this assembly be a great success in every way, and finally when our work is done may we look over a life not filled with regrets, but may it be said of us "inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these ye have done it unto me," and may we hear the grand Master of Assemblies say "it is well; enter thou into the joys of thy Lord, forever." Amen.



Mr. Howard F. Striker here sang Tosti's "Good By," in a very pleasing manner, and in response to a hearty encore gave "The grave on the heath."

*The President:*—This session is to be devoted to the work of the Children's Aid Societies. Mrs. Campbell, of the Western Pennsylvania Children's Aid Society, is not with us, and Mrs. Darragh will read the paper which was assigned to her; this will be followed by a paper of Mrs. Chambers, of the Chester County Children's Aid Society.

*Ladies, gentlemen and co-workers:*—As I stand before you to-night and think of the reason of our assembling ourselves together in this Convention the words of Daniel Webster come to me: "If we work upon marble, it will perish; if we work upon brass, time will efface it; if we rear temples, they will crumble into dust; but if we work upon human minds, if we imbue them with principles, with the just fear of God and love for our fellow men, we engrave upon these tables something which will brighten to all eternity." We are co-workers with our Lord for the uplifting of humanity. We are trying to make men, women and children better, to help them to live purer, nobler lives, to make human suffering less and human joy greater. We are working on human lives; helping those who are unfortunate into a better, nobler life.

The children are being cared for so that when they reach manhood and womanhood the world will be the better of their having lived in it, and out of their lives will go living streams of usefulness to all eternity.

There are times when we are to press onward looking neither to the left nor right, but ever keeping our work before us; but at other times it is well to pause to look backward and gather the results together and submit them to the crucial test. This we do to-night. In our centennial year, 1876, in the city of Lancaster, in a convention similar to this, it was asserted and proved that 1,300 children were in our almshouses growing up with the taint of pauperism on their lives, surrounded by others whose lives had made them dependents, and these children were absorbing into their lives that which is to be their normal condition. These 1,300 children between the ages of five and eighteen years were growing up to be men and women in this state, to work weal or woe for themselves, for you and me. These 1,300 children are men and women to-day; the youngest of these boys will cast a ballot in November that is equal in value to that of the Gover-

nor of the Commonwealth. Each seeming of little value in the abstract; one counts only a pauper child in one of the county almshouses. How can one pauper's life influence yours or mine? The lines in our lives stretch out alongside of these lives and we know not how or when these lives will cross ours. It may be only a "touch" but like an electric current our lives will be charged with an unseen power which may send us to happiness or misery, joy or sorrow, life or death.

The problem was solved in part, when through the influence of the Directors of the Poor and others interested in these children, the legislature of 1883 passed a law prohibiting the detention of children between the ages of two and sixteen in almshouses for a period of more than sixty days. This law distinctly said they should not remain in the almshouse, but what was to become of them? There was a small army that had to be fed, and clothed, and grow up somehow, and somewhere. Then it was that the Children's Aid Society, of Philadelphia, made a movement in their behalf, and subsequently Children's Aid Societies were from this society formed in the different counties. The work has continued to grow until now in almost every county in co-operation with the Directors of the Poor are doing yeoman work in rescuing children, and placing those who need special training in institutions provided for such unfortunate ones; and those who are physically, and mentally strong, and well in carefully selected homes where they will receive motherlove and care, and by their presence bring joy into lives which have been devoid of the blessedness of motherhood but where hearts are hungry for a child's lips to press their own, for a child's hands to clasp their's in loving trust.

I am not here to praise those who founded this good work, their reward is in God's "well done," which is more than earthly praise. The results are that nearly two thousand children are being cared for at present at a very small cost to the county, State or charitably disposed. To you who are co-laborers in this work of "child caring" and have labored to establish it, while at times you may be sorely tried, in the gloomiest hour if you will but raise your eyes, you will see the sunlight of your Heavenly Father's smile as he sees you helping some weak, feeble one from a life of neglect, perhaps shame, to one of joy and happiness. He has set his divine sanction on the plan when he placed his only Son in a home in Bethlehem. To you who are Directors of the Poor, and have so ably assisted us in this work, you have by your assistance in return received a blessing; you have redressed the office you hold from being a misnomer and a theme for satire; from being poor directors you have in truth become directors

of the poor, giving the aged, the insane, and the unfortunate ones homes in the care of good stewards. May we all be ready when the great director of rich and poor, great and small, shall call us all to that last convention, that we like good stewards, will all be ready with our reports and not one soul shall be missing when he comes to call the roll, and may these whom we have gathered on the shore of time be bright jewels in his crown of rejoicing.

Mrs. Rebecca B. Chambers read the following paper:

"One-half the vagabondage of the world comes from neglected childhood," said Victor Hugo. If this be true we do well to devote a portion of our time and attention to the consideration of the care of children and to seek therein a prevention as well as a solution of the vexatious problem of pauperism. Perhaps nothing new may appear, nevertheless the effort made by constant agitation must result in at least refreshing the responsibility, through the interchange of thought and experience. Let us not linger midst beautiful theories but rather with practical ideas, which shall crystalize in actions to bear with due weight on our future work for of necessity each year has taught new lessons in the care of our "little outcasts." "Neglected children are to be feared not because of the childish attempts at evils; rather because the child being father to the man, bears in maturity the fruits of seeds sown in early training." Children are being born of sin daily, so that our almshouses are kept plentifully supplied with the progeny of ungodly human nature, results of vice, profligacy, intemperance and the consequent lack of self control. They doubtless will continue to be thus born and yet "no man is born into the world whose work is not born with him." The dependent nature of humanity's offspring, makes it imperative for the welfare of our own beloved ones, with broad vision, to befriend such children born to poverty and misfortune. We believe with Francis Willard, however, that "we are awaking to the fact that the glorious possibility of motherhood and the right of children to be well born will at last triumph." "For a little child shall lead our nation up to God or down to Pandemonium." In the meantime the children are coming on and on, and now hold such a proportion of our population as to become, not only a philanthropic interest, but a public charge as well. Heaven has given the prior right to woman to direct the course of children's lives, and she has not yet relinquished that right. A law of our State, which passed in 1883 prohibits almshouse authorities, from receiving and detaining children (between two and sixteen years), for a term longer than sixty



days. This Act prompted the inception and formation of Children's Aid Societies. Christian women, with keen insight, answered the "call from the clouds," and with the hearty co-operation of Directors of the Poor, came to the rescue in organized efforts. Thus the work of child saving became a labor of love. One purpose actuated, a God given impulse to help these little immortals, and to "reset them as jewels" amid more cheerful surroundings. The solution, which is the private home plan, came with the impulse. In nearly every county of our commonwealth, now, dependent children are fostered in private homes under the care of Children's Aid Societies, and we rejoice that the "vaults of the State treasury are thrown open for their benefit." We should expect to find the remedy for neglected childhood in the home-circle, notwithstanding its social blight—that the greatest of American institutions and the boast of our 19th century. There, where they can home training, where bad habits and false ideas of life may be corrected; and where they may regain rights they have been deprived of. Our Creator has permitted these children to spring into being and we know not, nor dare we question, if it be for our discipline or his own glory. Ours is to fulfil to them his promise that when forsaken by father and mother he will take them up. Christ made no distinction or condition when he said "of such is the kingdom of heaven."

They are "God's poor" even though we do not recognize under the sulky, willful, and oftentimes repulsive countenance, the "embryo citizen," or the womanhood which might develop in the garden of home life. When the better nature is cultivated, the law of heredity overcome by education, the baser tendency will die for want of nourishment. Who knoweth whether this or that shall prosper and "God's compensating spring" will adjust the difficulties. Perhaps no State in the Union protects its poor so well as Pennsylvania, and yet we learn that in twenty-four of our sixty-seven counties they are cared for by the overseer system. We regret this and hope the sisterhood in those districts will arise to the help of the children. The work of Children's Aid Societies as a supplement to that of Directors of the Poor and Superintendents is most satisfactory thereby relieving the Directors and incurring no additional expense. All children who come under their charge are generally handed over to the Society to be placed in homes. Those under eight years unless there be especial cause, become boarders at \$1.75 per week, which includes clothing. To be sure it requires much time, thought and vigilance, but if thereby one little creature is snatched from degradation, the work is not in vain. One secret of success of the Children's Aid Society of



Chester county, (we rejoice to state) is, that the office of Director of the Poor has never been a political sinecure. This fact enables the Directors to fulfill their duties without fear. They are in perfect unity with the Society and are ever ready to straighten its entanglements and be no other than a help and strength continually in all its work. In order to reap more benefits, overcome more obstacles, broaden the power and bring all possible good pressure to bear upon this soul saving work Chester county secured a Charter. It is especially beneficial since we are incorporated as a Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, empowering us to enforce the State laws already existing. This need is not so great perhaps near the large cities, where societies exist, but it is invaluable in towns and villages where promptness is demanded.

Many children not chargeable to the county, who through neglect, poverty or death are left unprotected, and also cared for and placed in homes, where the environments of former days are forgotten, and a pure and healthy development secured thereby.

This persistent effort though quietly made, must be ultimately felt, and that for good to helpless humanity, since "God will suffer no good work to fall to the ground fruitless." In selecting a home great care is necessary in order that both child and care-taker are suited to each other. We need dispassionate men and women, patient and ready to encourage. Discouragements chiefly arise from the unreliability of those having to care for children as well as those parents who seek homes for their children.

It is hardly possible to exercise too great care, and homes changed more than once is not without good results, and may it never, never be true of a woman who cares for a "society child," that her only object in so doing is the money compensation. Here the actual work is being done, taking into the family circle these little mortals, many with low development mentally and morally; requiring Christian charity, unfailing patience and perseverance daily, in order to obtain satisfactory results. In the many phases of this reform work, perplexities constantly assert themselves, not the least of which is the question, of how long these dependents should go to school? The old indenture, which is not now used, granted a child three months a year, but we feel the necessity of a law requiring a much longer term. We even hope for the time when our United States will see the necessity of compulsory education. Would the condition of six months at school preclude the attainment of the best homes, and necessitate placing children in inferior ones? Is a good home really such, if children are not permitted to attend school regularly, because they are

“needed to help with the work?” Is not the prime object of this private home plan to do as you would be done by? and is not the education one acquires one’s only self-protection, and possibly an incentive to self purity? Does not this land of free schools owe to her children a fair knowledge of reading, writing and arithmetic? Can we measure the proportionate wrong done the boy or girl if denied these privileges, provided, of course, health and mind will permit?

On the other hand, nowhere perhaps so much as in school going, is the risk so great of the natural or inherited nature asserting itself. especially is this true in the country where oft times a walk of a mile or two must be taken, and that through lonely paths. Is one heretical on the subject, if one believes that good moral training is a deeper necessity than book-learning, and good home discipline a more lasting benefit to a child than school-going? Truly to be with a good woman, one of some refinement, who will train the speech, guide the thoughts, and be all the time imparting something good and useful, until the bent of the child’s mind is directed into healthful channels, is doubtless vastly better than to unsettle the disposition at school-going. Apropos is the one of religious training. It should be a requisition that every child have regular Sabbath privileges in religious instruction. It is a duty to see to it that these advantages are granted, at the same time remember, that each individual need must be decided according to its own peculiar demands. Perhaps no way can we know what “our children” are doing, save by a conscientious system of visiting, which, however, will never rectify the harm if a home is not a proper one. We should make it a rule to learn the condition of each child at least once a month, by visit or otherwise, and ascertain that its attendance both at secular and Sabbath schools is in proportion to its needs. The success of this work consists in a constant, personal intercourse with the children, as well as with the persons who have them under care. The children should feel that some one outside has regard for them, and that they have no better friends than those in the Society. This knowledge will invariably stimulate them to effort. Observe strictly the Golden Rule. Guard carefully the child’s right, then when once under complete control, the per cent. of failure is small compared with the good results and the crude material started with.

It does sometimes appear discouraging, and we oft times seem inclined to discredit the rightfulness of our efforts, when we realize the fact that after years of care and expense, worthless parents may claim and procure their children just at an age when they give promise of becoming good citizens. We hope the Poor Law Commission will treat this important subject. Then too, we hope from the revised laws,

Directors and Aid Societies will be given some power over run-aways, and compel persons who encourage them to transfer and give knowledge of such, who are under sixteen or eighteen years. From these two sources the good is counteracted, and all work made null and void. As an antidote for absconding, we deem earning wages at an early age the best. Human nature desires above all things perfect independence, and any lot is hard which has, after eighteen years of service, a few clothes and a meagre education.

We also feel deeply the increase in numbers of foundlings and pauper children. When will the time come when it will be checked? When profligate men and women may not bear children with impunity? When unnatural parents may not forsake their offspring, and boast that Children's Aid Societies will take them and care for them. When will it be impossible for women to buy and sell infants as was described in the *Philadelphia Press* of August 21st, 1892? It is a matter for us to wonder at, not that so many deserted children die, but rather that so many can live.

We would dwell a moment upon the importance of guarding older children from improper literature, which surprising enough is found in many a home that is otherwise a good one. From such reading many a run-away is planned, and many false notions about authority are inculcated, soon rendering a child incorrigible; in short, as Spurgeon said, "train up a child in the way you should have gone yourself."

Another serious question, difficult to settle, is the disposition of colored children. Is it better to place a colored child in a respectable white family to be trained as a servant, or with a colored family where home training and love will be its portion? We need not expect chastity to be natural to the negro race until years undo what years have wrought in their nature, and in the meantime we must care for their babes. Are not coming to the day when public, free industrial schools shall spring up over our land, where a girl can be taught house work or sewing as a profession, and a boy the trade of his choice, and also implant the principle that temperance and labor are the two best physicians of man. As workers, we must set before our minds the goal towards which we strive, nothing short of perfection in individual life, social custom, and national law.

Finally, we must come to see that the best method to care for neglected children is so to scatter them in various quarters, in healthy communities, where a transformation will be wrought. The spark of divine intelligence implanted by our gracious Heavenly Father in a poor little unfortunate child, needs only the gentle training of a Chris-



tian spirit, to make it unfold and become something very lovely, needs only to be helped and guided into the right pathway, and the Holy Spirit alone can do the rest. Let us work, hope and pray for this end.

*The President :* Dr. Kerlin is the next on the programme, but he has requested that Mr. Brumbaugh present his paper before instead of immediately after him, and we now call on Mr. Brumbaugh to address us on the advisability of establishing another institution for the care of feeble-minded children in the western part of the State.

Mr. Brumbaugh then read the following paper:

THE FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN IN WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA, AND  
THE ADVISABILITY OF ASKING FOR THE APPOINTMENT  
OF A COMMISSION TO BE APPOINTED BY THE  
GOVERNOR TO SELECT A SITE, AND  
ERECTION OF AN INSTITUTION  
FOR THEIR CARE.

This was the subject assigned to me by the Committee on Programme, for this Convention, accompanied by the request that I deliver an address, and a letter from the President of the Association stating "this is an important matter, and it is earnestly hoped you will be present and respond to the assignment of the Committee." Under these pressing circumstances, there was no way to evade duty, for we should not be guilty of doing anything that would detract from making this Convention, the eighteenth, the best ever held by the Association. Our first experience in this kind of Convention work, was when we met here eleven years ago in annual convention. The subject assigned me is an important one, and especially so at this time, when a second hospital for the education and care of the feeble-minded for the great Keystone State is asked for.

The idea of the care, treating and education of the feeble-minded began in this country less than a half century ago. It is true, however, that there were partially successful attempts made for educating the idiotic in Europe by Starce, Perrus, Guggenbuhl and Senguin. Massachusetts has the honor of being the first State of the American Union of taking the first steps by her legislature, on the 11th day of April, 1846, appointing commissioners to inquire into the condition of the idiots of the Commonwealth, to ascertain their number, and whether



anything can be done in their behalf. The appointment of this commission was largely the work of those great philanthropists, Doctors Howe and Wilber ; these names should always be held in grateful remembrance, especially by this unfortunate class, the feeble-minded. Upon the report of this commission made to the legislature in 1848, \$2,500 was appropriated for the purpose of training ten idiotic children, to be selected by the Governor and council. This was the beginning of the great work, until now there are training schools in a large number of States, Canada, and all over Europe.

The work in Pennsylvania was begun in 1853. Dr. Alfred L. Elwyn, of Philadelphia, through curiosity, had visited the training school of Dr. Howe, of South Boston, and was convinced that it was a noble work. He came home, and at once had a meeting called, and organized a Board of Directors, and a private institution established in two rented houses in Philadelphia, under the care and management of James B. Richards, who had been a disciple of Senguin.

Mr. Richards presented the matter to the legislature of our State at its session in 1854. The legislators were so impressed with the work of Mr. Richards, that an appropriation of ten thousand dollars for the school and ten beneficiaries were provided for. Mr. Richards did not remain long in the rented houses. A property on Woodbine avenue, Germantown, was purchased in 1855. Mr. Richards, with his assistant, Miss Holmes, pursued their noble work there. In 1855, Dr. Senguin came to America, a political refugee. He was the originator of feeble-minded instructors ; he was added to the corps of instructors, but through misunderstanding and insufficient support, Dr. Senguin and Mr. Richards both resigned their positions. They were succeeded by Dr. Joseph Parrish, who gave the work new inspiration.

The legislature, in 1857, gave an appropriation of \$20,000 for a building ; this was the beginning of the present elaborate buildings at Elwyn. Of course, considerable money was donated by the good and charitable citizens of Philadelphia and Eastern Pennsylvania. The corner stone was laid in December, 1857, by Bishop Potter. The buildings were so far completed as to receive the present efficient superintendent, Dr. Isaac N. Kerlin, and his family, on the first of September, 1859. He took twenty-five of his wards and their attendants with him from Germantown. From these small beginnings we have the present complete institution for the feeble-minded, at Elwyn, Delaware County, Pa., we may say the best one in the United States. Dr. Parrish remained the superintendent until 1864, and since that time the efficient and honored Dr. Kerlin has managed the institution so judi-

ciously and carefully that his reputation is world-wide. From the twenty-five inmates in September 1859, there were on roll 855 on the first day of October, 1891.

"This great institution year by year stretches out wider arms, embraces more industries, cares for more imbeciles, and exerts a deeper influence in the community. It is hoped that its latest addition will enable it to save many a girl from sorrow and sin in years to come."

But with all the enlargement of the present institution, it is far too small to accommodate the increasing demands, and for several years past the second institution has been suggested by those who have had this matter at heart.

At the last meeting of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society, held at Harrisburg, May 20th, 1892, the following resolutions were adopted :

WHEREAS, The State of Pennsylvania in common with the most advanced States of the Union has for more than thirty years made special provision for the training and protection of idiotic and feeble-minded children ; and

WHEREAS, This provision has been very limited, extending to not more than one-tenth of those whose infirmities need it, therefore

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Pennsylvania be petitioned by this body to establish a second institution for idiotic and feeble-minded persons in the western part of the State to meet the necessities of our western population, so that the over-burdened Pennsylvania training school for feeble-minded children at Elwyn be so relieved that it may administer the great demands made upon it from the eastern tier of counties.

*Resolved*, That the secretaries of the county medical societies of Western Pennsylvania are hereby constituted a committee to carry out the intent of these resolutions.

At a meeting of the State Board of Public Charities held at Harrisburg, June 1st, 1892, the following resolutions were adopted :

"WHEREAS, There are a large number of idiotic and feeble-minded persons within the borders of this Commonwealth who are not now properly provided for, and

WHEREAS, It has been demonstrated that a large portion of this class, if taken in childhood, are susceptible of great improvement under training, when placed in institutions adapted to their care ; therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Legislature of Pennsylvania be advised to establish a State institution for the care of idiotic and feeble-minded children in Western Pennsylvania, to be located on the western slope of the Allegheny mountains ; and be it further

*Resolved*, That it is the opinion of this Board that one of the essential features of said institution should be the development of agricultural industry for the partial or entire support of a large number of the inmates; also, the development of such trade industries as shall be within the compass of the inmate's capacity."

In my correspondence with Dr. Kerlin, he says, "I am pleased with your communication calling up the question of an institution to be established in the western part of the State, devoted to the care and training of feeble-minded youth. You can count on my full co-operation in this good work." Years ago, in conversation with Dr. Kerlin, he suggested the idea of the asylum village in the enlargement of Elwyn to such an extent as to always accommodate the feeble-minded of our State. In my communication with him, I propounded this question: Would better results be accomplished by enlarging the present institution, that is the institution at Elwyn. In reply Dr. Kerlin said, "I have to say that force of circumstances has obliged me to retreat from the object which I have long pursued of making this the asylum village of the State of Pennsylvania. I have reluctantly abandoned this darling object because of the high price of cultivatable land over which to extend such a large enterprise, and also because this is a private corporation, meeting with obstacles which a State institution may not.

Dr. Kerlin has made an extended European trip for the purpose of examining similar institutions there. This has resulted in valuable acquisitions. His long and successful career in this good work with his knowledge recently gained by foreign travel and examination of similar institutions makes his advice and suggestions invaluable at this time.

The general agent of the Board of Public Charities of our State, Hon. Cadwalader Biddle, in reply to my letter relative to this matter, says, "The number of applications made annually to Dr. Kerlin for the admission of children for whom he has no room proves the necessity for the provision of greater accommodations for this class in this Commonwealth.

I do not like institutions for a very large number of inmates, and at Elwyn there are now as many children as can be properly cared for by any one superintendent. The unwillingness of parents to send their children a great distance from their homes makes it desirable that the institution should always be within easy reach. I therefore strongly recommend the erection in western Pennsylvania of an institution similar to that at Elwyn.



Dr. J. C. Carson, superintendent of the State Institution for feeble-minded for the State of New York, at Syracuse, and who was president of the association of medical officers of the American institutions for idiotic and feeble-minded persons, at its sessions at Beatrice, Nebraska, 1889, in his annual address says:

"The public schools of this country have always been, and not without good reason its special pride and admiration. Their general policy has been to make them open and free to every child within certain ages, that he might have an opportunity of receiving a degree of education sufficient to fit him for the ordinary requirements of after life. It was fairly and presumably intended that every child, without discrimination, should be entitled to these benefits and privileges."

The idiotic and feeble-minded are in need of the education they are capable of receiving, but alas they were long neglected, overlooked or forgotten. While the recognition of these educational rights has here and there been established, the ways and means have nowhere been provided, except in part, and until they are fully secured it is our duty as living representatives of this cause at the present day, to insist upon and demand them to an extent that will give to every idiotic and imbecile child during the period of his school age, all the reasonable and special advantages the State can afford. Experience has shown that by far a very large majority of feeble-minded children are teachable, and that by a proper course of training quite a considerable number of them, by the time adult life is reached, become able, under well selected surroundings to care for and support themselves. Another large portion become useful in various ways about the institutions, at farming, at trade, at common labor, with the needle, in the laundry and kitchen or in the care of others of their more helpless kind, still another large portion although capable of a certain degree of improvement, under proper training, require, by reason of markedly deficient mental capacity or physical infirmities, constant care and custody throughout their lives. These then are the results that may be expected from the school training of the educable feeble-minded."

It is now generally considered that the insane, blind, deaf and dumb, idiotic and feeble-minded are very largely the wards of the State, and it is the duty of the State to afford these helpless and dependent classes the necessary education and training. There are by the last census, 1890, in Pennsylvania, 8,753 feeble-minded persons; 1,281 are under the age of fifteen years, and 248 of this number are living in the western part of the State.



It can thus readily be seen there is great necessity for more educational and training facilities for these unfortunate persons. As the present institution is in the extreme eastern part of the State, it would be wisdom to establish one in the western part of the State, of necessity and economy.

The State institutions for New York are located at New York and Syracuse. Syracuse is centrally located, yet the superintendent, Dr. Carson, in his last annual report, 1891, says, "I should therefore consider my duty unperformed did I not again call your attention (the Legislature and Board of Public Charities) to the public needs of the idiotic, and again recommend the early erection of buildings in some other portion of the State which would extend to this unfortunate class the increased accommodations needed for their care. We believe that all classes of the feeble-minded should be amply and generously provided for by the State. Almost without exception they would be better and happier, if provided for in an institution specially designed for them, while every home from which one such unfortunate was removed would feel that its darkest shadow had been dissipated and every community would be relieved by their removal. For the sake then of the feeble-minded, their comfort and happiness, and for the sake of hundreds of homes in our State which might be made brighter and more cheerful by their absence, we again renew our appeal."

Ohio has one large commodious institution situated near Columbus almost in the centre of the State. It is well adapted for the care and training of the feeble-minded. From the last report kindly furnished me by Hon. Jos. P. Byers, clerk of the Board of Public Charities, Report of 1891, we learn that there are 938 persons in the institution. Dr. G. A. Doren, the able and efficient superintendent of the institution says, in his report, last year, that "The wisdom, justice, humanity and economy of providing for the custodial care of adults is so generally recognized that it is hoped provision will be no longer deferred but provided during the present year. The applications for the admission of young children to this institution are now so urgent that the older must be discharged to make room for the young. To those without homes and guardians in sympathy with their condition, this is a serious matter. Ignoring all considerations of humanity to them personally the State cannot afford to permit their neglect or exposure to influences that will increase these troubles, it being better in every way to keep up the good influences and preventive effects of the training received here through life, than to contend with the lack of it in the multiplication of the number as the result of their abandon-

ment. Where shall the homeless go? Why should not the State realize the full benefit of the expenditure she has already incurred for them by turning to account, such productive capacity as it has been demonstrated they possess, and which it is known under intelligent guardian direction may be made equal to their own support, but without which they are sure to become burdens to society, the tools of criminals, and the begetters and multipliers of their kind or the occupants of jails and almshouses; in either case alike the burdens and pests of society and the unrestrained perpetuators of their kind. But on the other hand by providing for the custodial care of all adult idiots a large train of benefits would follow. The adults should be separated from the children, the former to suitable productive labor, the latter to the fullest possible benefits of school and industrial training.

The Board of State Charities of the State of Ohio to the last general assembly recommends, and says "We have an institution for the education of feeble-minded youth which for completeness of equipment and efficiency of management, has probably no superior in this or any other country, and yet it is painfully evident that it cannot, except in rare cases, prepare its graduates for self-support or self-protection in the world outside. It is however equally evident that it can train its pupils so that if custodial care is retained by the State they can as a whole be made self-supporting; can be protected from abuse, can be restrained from increasing their kind, and can be made as comfortable and happy as their defective organizations will permit. All that is needed is farm lands, comfortable farm houses, intelligent and kindly management." Certainly the State cannot, without gross neglect of duty, allow female idiots to drift into infirmaries or remain unprotected anywhere.

The small Commonwealth of Massachusetts has two institutions for the feeble-minded. These institutions are large. New York State has two institutions. Ohio has one large one centrally located. Nearly all the northern States have institutions of this kind. Pennsylvania should have two or more, and especially at this time is the necessity of the second institution urgent, as Elwyn is in the eastern part of the State and overcrowded. The new one should be in the western part of the State.

Let us as a body petition our next Legislature the urgent necessity of having this institution at once, as we have the recommendations of the Pennsylvania State Medical Society and the State Board of Public Charities urgently recommending this measure.

And now, in the language of the eminent Dr. Carson, at the sessions of Directors of the Poor of New York, at Ithaca, in 1891, "For the sake of those lacking in mind and reason, the poorest of the poor, and the most abjectly miserable creatures of our humanity ; for the sake of the many mothers in our State, worn out with the care and anxiety for their idiotic and epileptic children, for the sake of the hundreds of families whose whole happiness is marred and clouded by the presence in them of such members, let us one and all fail not to forget the opportunity" of urging this matter. Let us urge the necessity upon our Legislature. We can in our respective districts see our legislators and impress upon them the importance of the measure. Let us put the grand old Keystone State in the foreground and not cease our work until there is ample provisions for the education, training and care of all our feeble-minded, and all other classes that come under her care. In this way we can be true philanthropists to a much neglected class of dependent human beings, who have been groping in mental darkness and without training, that may make their lives happier and better. In the name of our great Creator let us be up and doing.

Dr. Isaac N. Kerlin, Elwyn, Pa., read the following paper on

#### THE FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN OF PENNSYLVANIA.

The population of Pennsylvania as reported by the census of 1890, is 5,258,014; of this number 8,759 are reported as feeble-minded. The previous census of 1880 was 4,282,891, of which 6,498 were feeble-minded. The ratio of increase of population is 22.7, while the ratio of increase of feeble-mindedness is 34.8. This increase of idiocy rising in the last census to the degree of one idiot or feeble-minded child to every six hundred of population, is possibly more apparent than real.

A careful analysis of the census of 1880, shows that a number of chronic insane discharged from the State hospitals of Pennsylvania have been enumerated by the census takers as idiots ; hence was given a very large increase to the returns for idiocy. On the other hand, the opprobrious name of "idiot" having been used rather than "feeble-minded," a great number of parents and guardians failed to make full returns of children who were only backward, simple, or feeble-minded. But I presume that then as now, the errors about balance each other, for while a large proportion of chronic demented were found by name to be in the tables of 1880, 608 of the admissions at Elwyn in the two years following *were not found recorded in*



*the census at all*; they had been turned in as normal children. I think, therefore, it is safe to say that the aggregate returns of the census bureau are probably nearly correct, the errors balancing.

The establishment of an institution for feeble-minded children should contemplate the children of an educable age; this may be stated at from five to twenty. Judging from the returns of the census, together with the applications received at Elwyn, these will reach at least one-third, that is 3,000, who are proper subjects for institutions.

#### THE CLASSES AND GRADES OF IMBECILITY.

In our classification of the children of all ages and conditions, seeking admission to our asylum and training school, and coming from all ranks of society, from every city, hamlet and country place of this Commonwealth, there is, first, lowest and saddest, the forlorn IDIOT: mute and helpless; knowing nothing and willing nothing; often crippled in limb and body, as well as darkened in mind.

God knows the pressure of this sad being in the home of its birth, or the living death that broods over the secret chamber where it breathes and feeds. *It* is rightly named idiot, for it is alone, touching society nowhere and repelled by everything on earth, except by the divinity within the mother, which watches and nurses it through feverish years of unrest, until it happily drops from its life sleep to arise into its life of innocence and growth. But, most unhappily, it often survives the broken vigor of its mother, when it is not strange that those who follow her, should seek a transfer of such unusual care.

Our nursery becomes a refuge for its helplessness, and perhaps a new light dawns in the poor creature's eyes as it finds others not unlike itself, and holds strange communion of sound and sensibility with creatures of kindred mould; it grasps the swing, observes the bells, and perhaps, like poor Willie who first laid upon the floor a quivering, nervous mass of temper and ill-nature, making no effort to feed himself, and having no happiness in anything, like him, the little forlorn thing may gain an upright position in a chair, and awaken to a realization of the world of sound and beauty, till we think the poor child has mounted a step above idiocy, even in the life that now is.

Words can not adequately convey the *necessity* for a proper State provision for *idiots* of this lowest class. Their mentality is absolutely negative; their dependence on others for cleanliness, raiment and food is entire; they are extraneous to, and independent of all that is active and living about them. The wounded and sick of a moving army are hastened to the rear, not more for their own good than that they shall not impede and distract the paramount object of the movement; so these poor stricken idiots, without a hand to help or an encouraging sign to give, do not belong to the van where they paralyze and obstruct, but in the kindly retiracy and safety of organized charities, where they shall be kept, maintained and made happy, as God's feeblest children, who have no part in the life struggle, and should not hinder any success.



These helpless, but not entirely hopeless idiots, constitute the first class that urge their claims for life and home upon the protection of a State and the benevolence of a community. They cannot be thrust aside, they cannot be counted out from the census, they cannot be exposed to die; the sneers, repugnance and forgetfulness of heartless men and women, if deadly, would save us from any conscientious labor for them; but idiots survive all this—they live and must be nourished.

This first class of mental defectives—IDIOTS—is a large one. To meet its care, two separate apartments of the general asylum or institution, are needed—the nursery for the infants and young—the asylum for those older.

The next generic class embraces in its broad field, innumerable shades of defective power and intelligence in a range above idiocy, and yet its wave line is below sanity.

For the sake of a name that may distinguish, this second and recognizable class may be denominated IMBECILE,\* or more agreeably, feeble minded.

Some of the individual cases of this second great class are only *deficient*—they possess all the moral and intellectual attributes of our nature, but not roundly and fully developed—they are at the foot of the village school class, and will remain there, excepting as the class may occasionally be inverted for an exercise, when they promptly and at one session filter through to the bottom again. Unless they can excel at some boyish sport, or do something that others cannot, they become the butt of their companions, and if not very gentle and inoffensive, their worst passions are developed, until they pass from the position of laughing-stock, to that of the terror or annoyance of the community. When these *deficients* cannot be especially trained at home, they are likely now to find their way to our institutions, and constitute the most improving and hopeful of the family. Seen at the head of our school classes, or foremost in our workshops, their whole natures quickened by the sense of superiority over their fellows, they are new creatures, repaying any pains and time spent upon them.

From this grade of intellectual *deficients*, we drop through surprising forms and degrees of imbecility to conditions shading into idiocy itself. Some with one or more specific defects of mental capacity, rendering them as inutile as the machine that is destitute of a vital part, and yet perfect in all else—some with one faculty developed to exuberance, and all others dwarfed or blighted—some with clearly operating faculties of attention and observation, and able to memorize and apply knowledge, yet governed by an insane impulse to some specific evil—of petty theft, deceit, arson or vice—others, again, who are imbecile and stupid in the whole domain of thought and activity, their bright faces a constant protest against the paralyzing vacuity that foils a teacher's skill.

\* The nomenclature of diseases, as submitted to the American Medical Association, May 1872, appropriately subdivides these conditions under the head of Affectus Mentis, Disorders of the Intellect, 845 Idiocy. AMENTIA. 846. Imbecillity. IMBECILITAS.

This class of feeble-minded persons—IMBECILES—finds in the rightly organized institution,—schools for their education in primary knowledge, so far as they are teachable,—instruction in the domestic employments of the laundry, kitchen and dormitory ; a few simple trades in well appointed shops, and the healthful occupations of the farm, dairy, vegetable and flower gardens. Their moral nature and its training is not forgotten ; of tender sensibility and simple piety, many are easily led into the precepts of religion and morality, the power of which influences to regulate the affections and quicken the perceptions ought not to be denied to these children of humble place and attribute.

We have thus, without effort at scientific precision, described the two generic classes of IDIOTS and IMBECILES.

#### THE ORGANIZATION OF ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE IDIOTIC AND IMBECILE CLASSES.

Our work will be inoperative and painful if liberal provision is not made for the complete isolation of these generic classes, and as needed, of the four or five sub-classes into which they may be divided.

Our Elwyn Institution was exceedingly illy planned for this essential grading and separation, and only by numerous architectural alterations has this fault been largely corrected, so that now we have our nursery, asylum, school and industrial departments, nearly as positively separated as it is desirable to have them.

At the risk of making some very trite remarks I will add : There are certain facts which should be fairly considered when planning for the care of these disordered persons in any locality.

1. The various phases of the affliction we propose to mitigate, and the consequent necessity that the first building shall admit of separate departments, and that there shall be *breadth of grounds* for any desirable separation of working or walking groups. California has planned its great general institution for the feeble-minded on a basis of one acre per patient, and starts with 1,700 acres.

2. That the education and training of imbeciles shall be all conducive to the development of a power of self-help, and the return of the child in five or ten years to society. Hence, shops, tools and acres are important adjuncts of the institution, to which the schools are preliminary.

That, earnestly as we may ask to prevent it, a large proportion, say 50 per cent. of those admitted, will be, sooner or later, candidates for a life home. 25 per cent. can wisely go home, if homes are practicable ; about 15 per cent. can be left after a few years' training, to make their own way ; 10 per cent die within 5 years after admission ; the remainder, 50 per cent., need a life home.

4. That a judicious balance should be preserved among the various departments that must necessarily follow. Perhaps, in the ultimate expansion of the establishment they may stand related to each other, as follows :

a. Central buildings for the school and industrial departments, accommodating 200 beds, at the rear of which, or near at hand, should be located the shops.

b. A separate building, not too remote, for the nursery department, for 100 beds.

c. Another more remote building on adjacent and separate lands, for the asylum department, for 100 beds.

The whole constituting a general asylum or institution for the feeble-minded of the State or locality in which it is situated, accommodating at the start 400 inmates.

#### AN ASYLUM VILLAGE.

It was the early policy of Elwyn that the State should supplant the offices of private benevolence. The citizens of Philadelphia donated the grounds and contributed largely, aided by the same liberality on the part of the citizens of Pittsburg, towards the erection of our first buildings. It was sought to have the churches co-operate. Trust funds were to be accumulated, on which free beds were to be perpetually endowed, and this institution was to be organized and continued very much after the models that obtain in England. But at the beginning, the wide-spread diffusion of idiocy and the exaggerate of its misery were poorly comprehended; the tax on private benevolence soon became oppressive, or private benevolence sought new channels, under the inspiration of fresh excitement to well-doing: The State has become more and more involved as all sections have participated; and more and more we have looked to the State, when disappointed with the emotional and ephemeral aids, which lack the staying quality needed for this hard problem. Private benevolence goes well in the first quarter, loses wind on the second, and goes to pieces before the third quarter. Hence it comes that at this late day, the State is urged to what, at the dawn of civilization and during the prevalence of the feudal system, was defined to be the obligation of the Crown towards idiots and lunatics to shield them from injustice and spoilation. The benevolent faint and fail under an unexpected and unfair burden; but the State, bearing on taxables its uniform pressure, and, in its Constitution and laws the embodiment of permanency, will justly become the protector, not only of the insane in the hospitals, but of the idiotic and feeble-minded in their schools and asylum homes. Such supplementary aid as the benevolent will give, should always be sought. Those who are able to care for their own, either at home or in the asylum, should be obliged to do so much; but the poor man's afflicted child, because supported by the State, should not be dishonored; for in the ideal institution for defectives, the poor and rich in their infirmities should seem to be the children of one Father, and their conditions be as nearly equalized as benevolence can make them.

There are within the boundaries of our State to-day, at least 3,000 defective children who need such care as only Elwyn now furnishes. At least one-half of this number would be subjects for life-care.



Let not our State and people felicitate themselves on the amount and quality of the work we are doing here for one-sixth of these needy ones, but in humility confess their short-comings, and ask if the limitations we are prescribing are not unnatural, unnecessary and cruel.

Let us accept the statements of our Board of Public Charities on the misery and helplessness of these unfortunates in the almshouses, and their still more wretched state in those counties where no almshouses exist, and where they are boarded out.

Our knowledge of those who apply at Elwyn for admission informs us that, at least 3,000 feeble-minded children are now resident with families who are unable to pay for support in institutions, and yet too much attached to their unfortunate offspring so place them in county almshouses. They distrust the real or imagined meanness of that support, and they shrink from its hard associations. It is for these that the most sympathy should be felt, and it is towards these that an early out-growth of relief should be made. Some of you have gone into the homes of honest, industrious mechanics and laboring men, on whom this great sorrow has fallen, and have learned of the perpetual unrest, the anxious days and harassed nights of a whole family; you have witnessed the nervous exhaustion of the mother, unfitted for the kindly and proper management of her other children, by the wearing concern for the disturbing one. Those of you who have known of these experiences can appreciate the touching appeals and bitter disappointment with which so many come to and go from our doors. Let this association, representing, in its relations to the idiotic and feeble-minded, the strength and charity of a commonwealth, come to broader views, and present these hundreds of families—these thousands of children—as among the most deserving, and certainly the most dependent objects for a wise, political philanthropy, which, in its ministrations, not only would lift to a higher and better grade of life, the imbecile child itself, but would nerve the arm, and gladden the hearts of so many faithful men and worthy women, now unnerved and oppressed by this blight of a household. In the face of the testimony that is coming constantly before us, I feel that our strength and influence are not fairly applied, until they embrace in our sympathy and care the whole of this sorrowing multitude.

Now, what are the principles on which this far-reaching work should be projected?

1. It should be extended to all who need it. "The privileges of 550 beneficiaries of the State are the rights of every indigent imbecile of Pennsylvania."

2. Rigid economy of organization, so far as compatible with the comfortable care of the beneficiaries should be insisted upon.

3. The very nature of idiocy being isolation, there is no need of considering proximity to homes as necessary in its care. More than one-half of those received will be subjects for life care, and the great majority cease to be of such interest to their families as to call for visitation; for when parents and relations discover that their children are happy



in their institution allotment—happier than their own best efforts could ever have made them—as a rule they gradually trust them to it. Locate your institution where there is cheap, good agricultural land, plenty of running water, without malaria, and near enough a stirring community to give it some social existence.

4. An experience of twenty-five years has convinced me that the feeble-minded and idiotic can be wisely and cheaply *cared for*, under a large community organization—the larger the better for classification; for classification can be more readily, wisely and pleasingly made in proportion to the increase of buildings and inmates.

Let us fix no limitations to the growth of an institution of this class. Like Willard Hospital for the Insane at Ovid, New York, which now is doing its best work, increased to 2,500 capacity, so, I believe, with every added building and every added hundred inmates, the work will be better and more easily done. There comes a period when a natural arrest to such development of a single institution is proper—that is, when it reaches the minimum of per capita cost, when available land can no longer be had, and when the last needy child has its asylum home and training school. Until these conditions are reached, the expediency of limitation is to be questioned.

Repeating the last proposition, we say that the idiotic and feeble-minded class can be best cared for, when brought together into a large community devoted to its service—only by this means can be treated that infinite diversity of conditions which the infirmity presents—only thus can be given to our employes and patients those changes of location and rotation of place and duty, which should break the terrible monotony of institution life—only thus can we utilize the developed abilities of the feeble-minded themselves, by furnishing within the large boundaries, those varied industries, that, by reduction of cost of general support, will make it possible for the tax-payers to assume the proper care of all these defectives.

If we were organizing an institution for the idiotic and feeble-minded children of Western Pennsylvania, we would select a large farm, accessible to good markets and the railway system. The grounds should be broken by ravines and hill-tops, so that these natural advantages would permit isolation and separation of the various classes in their many buildings. Choice levels of tillable ground should be divided off, where gardening on a large scale could be carried on by the large working parties. A large farm embracing the adjacent road-ways, and extending across them, with tenement houses environing the whole tract, should be possessed by the State; the whole inviolate against change and intrusion. On such a farm, a central group of buildings, furnishing administrative, school, chapel and amusement halls should be located—and here might be domiciled the central school family of three or four hundred children. At convenient and sheltered points scattered over the village farm, should be built, as exigencies require, various domiciles or pavilions, accommodating each from 50 to 100 inmates.

At the opposite sites of the farm should be two, three, four or more farm-houses, where classes of ten or twelve could be domiciled with properly selected farmers, to be taught farm, dairy and garden labor.

Convenient and small houses, on the opposite sides of the environing roads, should be provided and rented to employes. These little homes would be so many picket stations, occupied by persons friendly to, and dependent on the institution, thus removing the necessity of outside walls ever being built for enclosure. The expansion of such an institution, favorably located, would be indefinite—it would be a crowning glory to our State—it would solve in Western Pennsylvania the problem of "What and how to do for the idiotic and feeble-minded."

*The President:* Mrs. Bishop, who is next on the programme with a paper, is not with us, nor have we received any definite word from her. Mr. Folks, Superintendent of the Children's Aid Society, who is next on the programme, has written that he will not be able to be with us personally, but has forwarded his paper, and we will have it printed in the proceedings, if there is no objection.

#### CARE OF DEPENDENT CHILDREN FROM THE STAND- POINT OF A DIRECTOR OF THE POOR.

When from any reason whatever a child knocks at the door of the almshouse and secures admission, the Poor Directors find themselves confronted by a problem, as heavily weighted with responsibility, as its solution is difficult and perplexing. There have been many to criticize their actions. Let us try and place ourselves in their position and face the question from their standpoint.

The three factors which will probably determine the action they take are: 1st, Law; 2d, Economy; 3d, Guardianship.

1. Law. The problem is not voluntary. The people of Pennsylvania have wisely declared that in their Commonwealth no child shall be reared in an almshouse. A margin of sixty days is allowed for his removal. When we remember that the Poor Directors have themselves been called to their office of public trust by the same people who made this law, it would seem that the law should be sufficient in itself to secure its enforcement, and we must say that we have as a rule found the directors anxious to observe the law and willing to listen to any offer of assistance in caring for their children. But lest any should fail, there are agencies for its enforcement. The Director of the Poor is watched. The State Board of Charities calls at unexpected times and asks searching questions, the Children's Aid Society

sends its watchful agents, and the "poor" director who is remiss in his duty is soon reminded of the fact "he must get that child out of the almshouse."

2. Economy. The next consideration is too often expense. The cheapest plan of all is to turn the child over to somebody who will care for him without expense. But this cannot always be done. The parents of the child object, the child is small or bad-tempered or unattractive, and nobody wants him on these terms. The next cheapest is to leave him in the almshouse, but the law forbids. The next is to accept the offer of the Children's Aid Society to board him in a private family until he is ready for a free home. The most expensive is to build a children's asylum, call it Home or Industrial School, or whatever you please, and place the children in that. While we are under great obligations to the Directors of the Poor of the State, and esteem them highly as men worthy of their positions, we are bound to say that the element of economy is made too much of by the average director. To be sure the taxpayers are watchful, but they also have hearts which are tender towards children, and consciences not blind to their moral obligations towards the future citizen.

3. Guardianship or Parentage. The most perplexing question of all is, what shall we do with the parents? Is it not hard, even cruel, to tear the child from father or mother, or both, and entrust it to the tender mercies of strangers? A poor laborer is stricken with illness and is taken to the almshouse with his wife and four children for the winter. Shall they be ruthlessly torn apart, and the children placed here and there among strangers, whom they perhaps are bound to serve until they are eighteen or twenty-one years of age. The man may be able to support his family by the next summer. Is he not right in using every means to recover his children? Common sense and humane feeling both say that his children must not be placed beyond his recall. But the law says, and wisely, they can remain in the almshouse only sixty days.

A widow comes with her two children, her only consolation and hope. Shall they be once-for-all separated? Most people do not want children under indenture unless they can have a "clear title." "No parents wanted" is the motto of most people wanting to give children free homes.

A three-fourths-witted mother comes to the almshouse for maternity. She remains until her child reaches two or three years of age, and what shall be done with it, and what shall be done with her? A drunken or thieving husband is given a six months respite in the



county jail, his slothful wife betakes herself to the almshouse with her children. She protests that she is "going out in a very few days," and therefore her children must not be taken from her. The law says, and wisely, they must go.

There is one method of procedure which greatly simplifies all these perplexing questions. Of course the children of the sick laborer cannot be at once, and once-for-all, turned over to some stranger family. We cannot say to all unfortunate people who find in the almshouse a temporary or permanent home, "the price of entering here is the complete and final surrender of your children." The taxpayer even would not ask us to do that. But we can say, "my friend, misfortune compels you to accept a shelter which is not fit for your children." Your character is formed, but their's is forming, and this is not a suitable environment for the future citizens of Pennsylvania. But you need not give up your parental rights; we will hold the children in trust for you, we will pay some good family to give them good care, and will give them better surroundings than we can afford to give you. If at any time you become able to provide for them, they will be returned to you.

To the parents who make the almshouse their winter quarters, and who are less deserving of pity, we can say firmly, yes, you may go to the almshouse for the winter, but you cannot take your children there. You expect to provide a home for them within a few months? Very well, we will provide a home for them during that time. If later you can provide a good home for them, you may have them. The good-bye must be said for the present, but it need not be final. If the parent really wishes to provide for his child, this temporary separation is a stimulant, and it is not cruel. If the parent continues a pauper from choice, his child is best separated from him as early as possible. The temporary separation by means of boarding-out is the best help in clearing away pretended fondness or proving real attachment, that can be devised. The system of free homes cannot provide for temporary cases, and many cases are necessarily temporary. Of the 395 cases received from the Bureau of Charities of Philadelphia, since 1883, nearly one-half have been returned by their order to their parents.

If now the parent dies or proves unworthy or unable to provide for the child, the boarding-out has been the best possible preparation for a free home when the child is ready for it. In many cases he will be kept by the people he has been boarding with. The child has already engrafted itself upon the family life. If the child has been long in



the almshouse, he must be given that extra care and attention which for such children can be secured only by giving an adequate remuneration for the outlay, and he will probably need to be paid for for some time.

As the Director of the Poor faces the situation and contemplates placing a child in a family he asks himself, how do you know you are placing him with good people? Are not these children placed out with farmers, overworked, underfed and shabbily clothed? Are they not kept from school and church, and treated harshly or even cruelly so that they grow up in ignorance and servitude, practically being little child-slaves. Though an ardent advocate of the family plan, I admit that all this has been true in more than one case. You may paint the picture still darker, if you like, and say that such treatment has led to the premature illness and death of these poor children. I do not conceal or make less by one degree the horror of the picture, but I do proceed to say that it is only true where the work has been done in a shamefully, careless, inefficient and parsimonious manner. It is absolutely necessary that great care shall be used in the selection of homes and the supervision of placed out children. This work must proceed step by step upon actual present knowledge. We must not rely upon vague reports of what somebody has heard or said, or upon the fact that our second cousin knew this applicant's father or the fact that some respectable citizens have under pressure signed his request, or the fact that he looks like a good man.

In the selection of a home, we must carefully search after the real motive: what made him think of taking a child, how many children he has of his own, what are their ages, how old a child does he want, how much school does he promise, what property does he own, what newspapers and reading matter comes into his home, what hired help does he keep. All this and much more information is ascertained by the Children's Aid Society of every family with whom it places a child. We must then try him before a jury of his neighbors, selected by ourselves. We must tell them that the party in question has not given their names as references and does not know that we have written to them. All this can be done by correspondence. An impartial verdict is thus obtained from those who have been the man's acquaintances and neighbors for years and know him better than any one else.

The home being selected, too often the work is thought to be done and to need no further attention. "We know he is in a good home" says the complacent visitor or Director. Occasionally, like a flash of lightning, the fact is brought before him that the child has not been

in a good home, as was the case in the past year in one of the counties of Pennsylvania.

We must not have only careful selection, we must have efficient supervision, and that should include :

1. Personal visits to the child in his home. Each visit to be unexpected and to be, not a formal call, but a searching investigation, an inspection of the child's wardrobe and a conversation with the child alone if he has reached years of understanding.

2. A monthly report from the school teacher, giving number of days taught, number of days child attended, and the appearance of his clothing. The Children's Aid Society began last year this correspondence with the teachers, and it has proven of inestimable value. From this time on, a monthly report is to be received from every teacher. Blanks are furnished them for this purpose.

3. A quarterly report from the pastor concerning the attendance at church and Sunday school, and their knowledge of the religious life and customs of the family.

When all these safe-guards are taken and conscientiously and persistently followed out, we can say that we actually know how the child is clothed and worked and schooled, and if it is not satisfactory he is removed.

To the average Director of the Poor however, this is impossible. He is a man of business and family cares, and can only give the odds and ends of his time to the matter of caring for the poor, and only a small part of this to the care of children.

The Children's Aid Society which has slowly and laboriously elaborated this system of selection and supervision of homes, places its machinery at their disposal, and here and now renews its offer to receive children from any Directors of the Poor in Eastern Pennsylvania who are willing to pay the child's board as long as he is boarding. It has the experience, the machinery and we hope the heart to do properly the work it offers to undertake.

But is the country after all the best place for children? Are not the people poor, and the work hard, and the days long, and the school short?

I wish to say that my experience both as a Children's Aid Society worker and as a private citizen leads me to believe that the farm is the best possible place for the average boy, and that the longer these, our boys, stay on the farm, and the more they become wedded to country life the better.

From a monetary standpoint I believe it is more favorable for the workingman than the city. The farm laborer working for \$200 per year can easily save from it \$150; the city man working for \$800 to \$1,000 can hardly do better. Rent is incomparably cheaper in the country, his garden supplies him with a free market. Any man with good health can by middle age provide himself with his own home and farm. The demand for farm labor is constant. Every farming county in Pennsylvania needs to-day more men, and farmers never strike.

From the standpoint of intelligence I believe the comparison to be equally favorable. I have been surprised at finding in the country homes of Pennsylvania, so many of the very best newspapers and periodicals, and the country schools, though often decried, give a better chance for individual development and furnish to-day a host of promising young men for the colleges of the State. Farm life is quieter and more healthy for mind and body. The average duration of life among farmers is several years more than that among city people.

From the standpoint of morality we must again choose the farm for our children. The superintendent of the New Jersey Reform School has wisely said that when we give a boy a trade we make it necessary for him to live in the city where he is exposed to all his old temptations. Philadelphia sends seventeen times as many boys to reformatories and prisons in proportion to the population as the other eastern counties. There is plenty of evil in the country but it is less intense, the very isolation of the farm tends to quiet and respectable living.

The co-operation between the Children's Aid Society and the Poor Directors of Eastern Pennsylvania began nearly ten years ago when the law forbidding the detention of children in almshouses was passed, has increased in cordiality and effectiveness to the present time. As far as my knowledge extends no county which has tried the plan has returned to any other and the number of counties working on this method is continually increasing.

The number of children in charge of the main society and its committees on September 1, 1892 was 565.

During the ten years of their existence they have removed from the almshouses of Eastern Pennsylvania no less than 820 children. At the present time the number of children detained in almshouses contrary to law is very small indeed. There are now no counties which persistently harbor from ten to twenty children most of whom have been there year after year. The total number reported in almshouses



on September 1st was thirteen. Nearly all these have been in the almshouse less than sixty days and with a few exceptions they belong to the annual fall migration which sets in towards the almshouse in September and October. With this report came also the word that the committee, most of whom were just returning from the summer vacations were planning for their removal and that their co-operation with the Directors of the Poor was entirely satisfactory.

To the Directors of the Poor who have in most instances given their ready co-operation to the society when its work was explained to them, the Children's Aid Society would at this time express its sincere thanks and appreciation, and its earnest hope that our work may grow more and more effective until in Pennsylvania no child ever spends a night in the almshouse but the very day that it becomes a public charge some citizen of that Commonwealth takes him by the hand and leads him to the open door of his own home.

The President appointed the following committee on resolutions with reference to the work of the Children's Aid Societies: Mrs. Lydia B. Walton, Chester; Mrs. J. J. Fisher, Venango; Mrs. Archie Alston, Allegheny; Mrs. Mary A. Fitch, Erie; Mr. W. A. Kramer, Cumberland.

*Mr. Brumbaugh* (of Blair Co.) offered appropriate resolutions upon the death of Hon. Lewis Pugh, of Scranton and John Croat, Esq., of Germantown, and upon motion they were referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

Mr. Brumbaugh also offered a preamble and resolution in regard to the establishment of an institution for feeble-minded children, which was referred to the Committee on Resolutions.

*Mr. Reamer*, (of Westmoreland): We came here to-night to listen to the proceedings of the Children's Aid Society, and I move that before we adjourn we give the ladies a chance to talk. Before the Convention adjourns, I mean. We have an arrangement in our county that I don't think very much of, and I would like to hear them discuss plainly how they conduct their societies. How they dispose of children, etc.

*Mr. McGonnigle*: I think it very proper that the gentleman from Westmoreland have an opportunity of ascertaining from



the ladies how their business is conducted. Whether it is for the Association to fix a time for the ladies to explain their work fully ; there may be some here who are not as familiar with the work as the most of us are, and in that case the proposed setting apart a time for taking this matter up would be the preferable way.

*President Colborn:* I am requested by the chairman of the present meeting to ask the various Aid Societies to make their reports and hand them in.

*Mrs. Chambers* (of Chester): The ladies of the Aid Societies have come here for the same purpose that the men have ; to learn how to do their work, and they have hardly had a fair chance. They have expressed their sentiments but have had no encouragement from other societies. There were quite a number of names on the list, but we have been cut out. None of the ladies have been able to say anything. We were glad to hear the motion of the gentleman from Westmoreland.

Mr. McGonnigle moved that the subject be taken up to-morrow morning, at the meeting at the Soldiers' Home and discussed at length, which was agreed to.

Adjourned until to-morrow morning.

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Proceedings of October 12th, 1892, at the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home.

After a general inspection of the buildings, etc., the Convention met in the Chapel of the Home where the following proceedings were had:

Miss Wells, of Erie, sang a very pretty lullaby and for an encore gave "Robin Adair."

*President Colborn:* The first matter is the discussion by some of the ladies, in answering certain questions that the gentleman from Westmoreland desired them to answer.

*Mr. Reamer*, (of Westmoreland): The remarks last night were all very well for those who understand the matter ; but some of

us want to know; we are now run by a Children's Home and we would like to know exactly how they take care of these children, and the manner of their work.

*Mrs. Alston, (of Allegheny):* The gentleman asks us to explain how we do our work. There are a great many Homes that do a great deal of good work, and still our work is to prevent the multiplying of Homes. We consider the family system the better way of caring for children. We are only in our infancy. We have many things to learn, but like all other good work we have to work for a time before we know the better way to do it. Our mode is to take the children, especially from the almshouse and board them in a private home at the lowest price we can. Some places in the country they can be boarded cheaper than in the city. In the County Home in Allegheny we can not board them for less than \$2 a week, and the Directors of Allegheny county have, since the organization of the Childrens' Aid Society there, given all their children to us and paid promptly every bill and never have disputed any bill. We have a great deal donated, and when we can supply them with the clothing, etc. that is donated we do so and when we have to buy new clothing they pay all the bills that we present. The Allegheny City Directors did the same thing. We now work with the Board of Charities on the same principle; and I will say that Allegheny City is only paying for two children we have placed all the children that came under the care of Allegheny City in private homes, where they were adopted, or in homes where they are being cared for. We take the able-bodied children and get homes as soon as we can, and if they are crippled or imbecile or disabled, we take measures to have them placed so they can be self-sustaining. If they have to be put into Elwyn or into the Home for Incurables we get them there if we can—we have now six children in the school for special training; they are crippled and never could make their living in an ordinary way, but they can be trained to, in this way. We visit the children, or try to at least once a month; we employ a visitor and send her out. If we find in any case that they are not happy we immediately remove them. And we take many children that are not dependent

on the county, and we assist mothers; we never try to take a child from its parents; only where it is for the good of the child to be removed do we separate it from its parents.

*Mrs. Benton* (of Crawford): Can you tell the number of children that the Aid Societies throughout Pennsylvania have placed in homes?

*Mrs. Alston*: In the western part—we claim 21 counties that we do work in—that in the last three or four years we have placed some 500 or 600 children, in the western counties. I think it was asserted here that Philadelphia was the State of Pennsylvania; but we claim to be a little corner.

*Mrs. J. M. Richards*, (of Venango): I think the number will be contained in the report I put in; in the Actuary's report. I wish any one who feels like asking questions would ask them. It would help us wonderfully in telling our work.

*Mrs. Benton*: Wouldn't it be well to say that we have had before this year a State appropriation, and this year we haven't an appropriation, and that accounts somewhat for the few ladies here at this meeting. This last year the bill didn't reach the hands of the Governor for the appropriation. We are in hopes of getting one the coming year.

*A Lady*: I would like to ask something about that State appropriation. I want you to hear us. Let us fairly scream. We cannot blame the brothers for cutting us out, if we cannot be heard. How do you get the appropriation, and do you apply for it every year? Now, we want the appropriation too. How shall we get it?

*Mrs. Benton*: I will refer you to Mrs. Alston.

*Mrs. Alston*: We put in an application to the Board of State Charities, and they approved an appropriation of \$12,000. That was two years ago. The bill was passed, and they cut us down to \$6,000. The bill passed both houses, and by some means which we don't understand, it was lost, in 24 hours—it was "mis-laid," and didn't reach the Governor. We knew it had passed,

but it was found afterwards in a drawer—we don't know how it came there. It is one of those things that cannot be explained. So we failed to get our \$6,000 two years ago, which the Governor assured us he would have signed. Remember our work isn't confined to one county, but 27 counties. And we pledged to give each of them, of that appropriation, at least \$100, and the rest was to carry on the work generally. We give an itemized account for every cent of expense.

*Mr. Biddle*, (of Philadelphia): I think I can answer the question. We have a law in Pennsylvania which provides that no appropriation to a charitable institution or association shall be made by the legislature, unless the institution or association desiring it shall, by the 1st of the November preceding the meeting of the legislature, notify the Board of Public Charities of their intention to so apply to the legislature, stating the amount that they intend to ask for, and the purposes to which they intend to apply it. We are then required to examine into the matter and report our opinion thereon to the legislature. Under that law our Board have been in the habit of receiving large numbers of notifications from institutions that intend to apply at the coming sessions. We publish a little volume to the legislature, and have it on their tables when they meet, giving all the institutions that have notified us of their intention to apply, and the amounts, the desire, and the purposes for which they intend to apply it, with our opinion thereon. Now the Act doesn't say that the legislature is bound to follow our advice, and it don't, but it says we must report to them; and Governor Pattison and Governor Beaver have said they would sign no bill without the institution or association had complied with the provisions of the law. Governor Pattison I think vetoed at least twenty bills where they hadn't notified the State Board of Charities. So those intending to apply, will have to notify that Board by the 1st of next November of their intention, and then that association has to have its own bill drawn, and have it given to a member of the legislature; the best one being always the one who lives in the district; then they know personally about it. They present the bill in the House. All appropriations of money have to originate in the lower House. Then the bill has to be watched very closely after it is in the legislature. After it passes



the House you have to see that it goes into the Senate, and through the mill there ; it has to go to the Appropriation Committee there, and be reported by that Committee to the Senate, and then you have to see that it goes to the Governor, and that the Governor signs it, or you may find yourselves in the same position that the Allegheny ladies did when they found that the clerk had put their bill into the drawer, and it had remained there over thirty days, so the Governor couldn't sign it.

*Mrs. Benton :* How much is allowed each week for each child taken from the almshouse ?

*Mrs. Alston :* In Allegheny county they allow two dollars a week, and pay for all the clothing that we buy.

*Mrs. Benton :* How much would that amount to a year ? How many children would you take from the almshouse ?

*Mrs. Alston :* It depends on the number of children coming in. I think Mrs. Darragh could answer that better than I.

*Mrs. Benton :* I think your county is an exception. I know our county don't pay two dollars a week, and I know they never bought any clothing. They have allowed us from \$1.25 to \$1.75 a week for the board of the child, providing we don't board it too long ; so we always try to have a home to place the child in.

*Mrs. Darragh :* From the Allegheny City Poor Board we received 5 children, and from the Allegheny County Poor Board 17, and from the Allegheny County Home we received 32 ; from the Department of Charities of Allegheny City, \$17.74 ; we had five children that cost then \$17.74 to take care of. I don't know exactly how long we kept them.

*Mrs. Benton :* The amount that I desire is the amount paid by the Directors of the Poor for one year.

*Mrs. Darragh :* That is what it is, \$17.74 for one year. That was the average expense from the Allegheny County Home, and I will say now about two dollars a week. We never can board a baby in Allegheny county for less than \$2.50 a week. We pay

two dollars a week for the care, and fifty cents a week for milk bills—so there should be no temptation to baby farming—so children will get their due portion of food, and there will be no temptation among the women to curtail the supply of food to make more money. So we pay the milk bills. It averages \$2.50 a week, but we don't get \$2.50 from the county. We supplement that by the contributions of friends. We have had in donations in Allegheny county, \$739.45, the Thompson-Bell estate, \$100 a year, from a little girl's fair, \$10, and a Sunday school, \$44.10, and we each pay a membership fee of \$3 a year; for memberships and dues we have \$104. We get most of the attendance of physicians free of charge. We have our Board of Managers, which is printed in this report which I hold in my hand. We have an Advisory Board of men, so if we cannot get along without the men we have then. We have our regular officers like any other society, and in Allegheny county we have an office; we get that from a free dispensary there that is given over to charitable work. We pay nothing for the office, but we pay for janitor and fuel \$50 a year. In that office we keep a woman employed; we have an exceptionally good Actuary, who is heart and soul in the work, and she never rests until she knows a child is in a good home. We have found our work so scattered, that we employ a visitor. We only pay her for the time that she is employed. Sometimes she will make three or four visits in a day. We have an attorney also, so if we get into any trouble, and he gives his services gratis; and we have different places that will take our children free of charge, and these things reduce expenses largely. We get a reduction in our drugs and medicines. I think last year we had but three die out of 150 in charge.

*Mrs. Benton:* Now we would like very much to hear from the gentlemen.

*Mr. Worst (of Lancaster):* Our Children's Aid Society is a branch of the eastern or Philadelphia society, and the ladies there I believe don't wait for the children to come from the almshouse but they look after them and bring them to private families, or boarding-houses, or baby farms, or whatever you call them, and the Directors of the Poor pay \$1.75 a week.

Last year it cost about \$1,500 for boarding in private families. Our Directors are very generous. We furnish part of the clothing for these children; shoes and hosiery I think is all that the Directors of the Poor furnish.

When they arrive at the age of two years they are removed to these private boarding-houses and kept there until the ladies are successful in getting places that are suitable for them, and when they arrive at the age of four years they are removed to the Children's Home. I would like to ask the lady, have you a Children's Home in Allegheny :

*Mrs. Alston :* We have several Homes there, but we never use a home. We have no Home in connection with the Children's Aid Society, in the city or in the county.

*Mr. Worst :* What do you do with the children when they are four years old, when you cannot procure homes :

*Mrs. Alston :* We can always procure homes. But one thing the ladies must do, they must work, if they wish to procure homes, and good ones. We make a thorough investigation of every home before we put the child in. Sometimes we are deceived, but then we remove the child.

I wish it understood that we do everything that we can to make parents or friends support their own children. We don't encourage, in any way, parents or friends giving up a child to be taken care of.

*Mr. Worst :* We have thirteen now in private families. Another question, do you wait for all of those children to come to the almshouse ?

*Mrs. Alston :* No, sir. A great many people come to our office and state their case, and if we think it is a case that we ought to consider we consider it. Frequently the Directors bring them direct to our office. Some of them the first thing we have to do is to have them washed and cleaned and then we take them to private homes, and sometimes they are not there more than a day before we put them into homes. Sometimes children are brought in by the Directors that their parents have been arrested for run-

ning a "speak easy." They are sent to the work house and the children must be cared for. They cannot be put into homes, because the parents have a claim on them; we board them until it is decided what to do with them, and we clothe them at our own expense. We don't ask the Directors to pay for that kind of children, because we have clothing on hand.

*Mr. Worst:* Do you say that you haven't a child between four and sixteen years of age in Allegheny county supported by charity, a healthy child?

*Mrs. Alston:* I don't say supported by charity; I say in our Society.

*Mr. Worst:* I asked you what you did with the children after they are four years old, and you say they never arrive at that age.

*Mrs. Alston:* Oh, yes they do. I didn't understand you. We place them in homes just at whatever age they are. As soon as they come under our care. We have a private boarding-house and we take them to this home.

*Mr. Worst:* Almshouses are not permitted to keep children between two and sixteen, but after they arrive at the age of four years we can transfer them to the Children's Home.

*Mrs. Alston:* We just put them into the private home and keep them until we get a home for them. Sometimes it is twenty-four hours and sometimes four weeks or more.

*Mr. Milliken* (of Philadelphia): My official position is the charge of children of the Bureau of Charity, I will state what the nature of the contract with the Bureau of Charity of Philadelphia, with the Children's Aid Society is and what it means. When the law went into operation the Bureau of Charities invited propositions from the different institutions of Philadelphia to act as their boarding agent to place children in family homes. It required that the children must be removed from the almshouses. They might be placed in private homes or in other institutions. As the Children's Aid Society had facilities for placing them in county homes they obtained the contract.



An agreement was made with them at the rate of \$1.75 a week for boarding the children. That included transportation and clothing where it was needed, and medical attendance, in case of their falling sick in the country.

They continued to work at that rate for two or three years when it was considered by the managers of the Children's Aid Society that the sum was too small. Some of the friends of the Children's Aid Society were asked about it and consulted—myself with others—to see whether the Directors would consent to increase the amount. We expressed the opinion that they would very likely increase the amount and encouraged them to ask \$2, and that was granted, and that has continued until now.

The Children's Aid Society of Philadelphia, do a great deal of work ; handle a great many children who are not a public charge. Poor children are taken directly to the office of the Children's Aid Society, and when their treasury will enable them to take care of them they never come under the care of the Bureau of Charity at all. So they are engaged in doing a public work of great value, without any charge whatever. They have to depend on their success in raising contributions. It is only children who are entered on the records of Blockley Almshouse—never in case of healthy children over two years old longer than sixty days—if they are Protestant children they are transferred to the office of the Children's Aid Society, to be placed out at boarding, and then the Aid Society have a claim on the Bureau of Charities for their support and send in their bills once in three months and are paid.

I would say in my opinion the Children's Aid Society don't make any profit. I think they lose a little perhaps. We took the position a few years ago that children sent out under the Bureau of Charity arrangements, where they required clothing that they must be supplied with new clothing ; that obliged the Children's Aid Society to purchase new clothes, at of course, an additional cost to them. We didn't consider that it was proper that children placed out to board in country families, and going to public schools and churches, should be dressed in old clothes ; they wouldn't feel comfortable ; they would be ashamed ; and we thought it better to insist that they be furnished with new clothes. Not expensive ones, but comfortable.

Now our directors have endeavored to be faithful in observing, and they hold me responsible, that the law that directs that no children over the age of two, between two and sixteen, shall be kept longer than sixty days in an almshouse. Of course in Philadelphia the almshouse includes also the Philadelphia Hospital. The wards where children are placed are classed as belonging to the Philadelphia Hospital; the almshouse proper contains no children. It is simply a technicality, as the whole institution is the Blockley Almshouse. Children sometimes come there in a half starved run-down condition, and we consider that it is better to keep them the sixty days, as the superior bill of fare of the children's department is beneficial to them. They are in a condition, often, of almost inanition.

Miss Estelle Tyson, daughter of Major Tyson, commander of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home, was here introduced and sang a very pretty solo accompanied by Mrs. E. D. Austin.

*Mrs. Willard* (of Indiana): I represent Indiana county and I want you to know what to do there. We have no almshouse or county home there. We have had a Children's Aid Society for six years. We have three active members, and during that time we have placed in homes forty-two children, at an expense of \$200. We don't hand any bills to the Directors.

We don't think much of our Directors there. If there is any work to do we go to work and do it and there are a lot of good men stand by us and furnish all the money we want. We have plenty of money to meet all our expenses.

*Mrs. Benton*: Don't you receive your appropriation from the State?

*Mrs. Willard*: Yes, if we ask for it, but we don't need it, and we don't ask for it. We have plenty of homes and never have a child twenty-four hours. We have more homes now than children.

*Mrs. Walton* (of Chester): I represent the Chester County Children's Aid Society. That is an independent society. We neither belong to the east or the west. Our Directors have signified their

willingness to take care of the poor of Chester county themselves. We have never received or applied for any appropriation. We organized about eight years ago ; before that our Directors of the Poor were paying \$2 a week for board and clothing ; but our boarding homes were so plentiful that they reduced the same to \$1.25 a week. Our good boarding homes remain as plentiful as they were when the \$2 was being paid. We have twelve local committees in our society, in different portions of the county, each with its secretary, president and treasurer, and children are visited monthly and all their needs supplied. When children are placed in the county Home under two years of age they remain until after that time and the superintendent of the Home notifies the secretary of the society that such children, of such age, are in the Home, subject to removal by the society. The record of homes is carefully looked up and if free homes can be found for children of that age they are placed there. If not, the boarding home list is investigated and the children are put there under the care of the special committee. Most of our children are small when they come from the county Home. When they are six or eight or nine years old we are very fortunate in securing good free homes, but for the little folks it is rarely we find a free home under five or six years old. But our Directors and superintendent are heartily interested in the work and generally pay their part without any complaint until we can furnish a free home, never grumbling, or thinking that they remain too long, relying entirely on the judgment of the ladies. Our active membership consists of about 148 for which we pay fifty cents, annual membership fee. We have nine members who pay \$2 annually, and several life members who pay \$10, and several of that class are gentlemen. We require nothing but their money.

Children that expect to receive anything from the county fund go to the county Home and have their names recorded on their books ; they are the county wards. We are the agents of the Directors of the Poor. But in order to receive any aid from the county a child must go there and be registered on their books. We never have deemed it a stigma to have their names placed there, our county Home is kept in such a manner.

*Mr. Reamer* (of Westmoreland): How much do the Poor Directors of Chester pay your institution a year?

*Mrs. Walton*: About \$3,000.

*Mr. Reamer*: It is too much. It costs us about \$1,500 a year, entirely too much money, with twenty children.

*Mrs. Walton*: We have thirty-four children in the boarding home.

*Mr. Reamer*: Here are twenty-seven counties, that they can't rake up twenty-seven children in the whole twenty-seven counties.

*Mrs. Alston*: We put the children all out as soon as they can be put out.

*Mrs. Walton*: These thirty-four children are what we call county wards. We have a great many more children, but the Directors don't keep them. We have numbers of that kind.

*Mrs. Walton*: We have fifty of that class that never costs the Directors of the Poor a cent, we supply. We have thirty-four children boarding at this time. We have forty-four children in free homes, not indentured, and thirty-four that are indentured.

*Mr. King* (of McKean): We have in our almshouse a family consisting of a father and mother and two boys; they came we expected, temporarily, and they have been there a year; what shall we do with those boys? One is 11 and the other 12. The mother is very anxious to keep them and they expect every month to go away.

*Mrs. Alston*: I would say if the parents are not able to take them out they ought to be put to work until they can take care of them. You can find places where they can work. I wouldn't keep them in the home.

*Col. Gould* (of Erie): I would request that Miss Reed, President of the Home for the Friendless at Erie, explain their method.



*Miss Reed* (of Erie): I am glad to say a word about this Home. And as you come here and find no branch of the Children's Aid Society, you may feel that Erie county is neglecting its children.

When the Children's Aid Society was first started in Pennsylvania a branch of it was started in Erie, but eighteen years before that the Erie Home for the Friendless had been organized, and the Children's Aid Society found that the Home was doing all the work and doing it so effectually that they ceased to exist because there was nothing for them to do. But we didn't feel we would like to have it in that way, and so we had a committee appointed consisting, I think, of two managers of the Home and one or two outside of the Home, and these ladies represent the Children's Aid Society, and when a case comes up where they can be of any help to us we call upon them. But we feel that our Home is doing the work of the Aid Society, that we are one in purpose with the Children's Aid Society, and that we have been able to do that work in a way that has met the approval of the community, and we have so thoroughly the confidence of the community that the institution is well supported, although we do receive some State aid. We take children in and care for them and in every case we find a home for them the same as the Children's Aid Society. We try to know that it is such a home as a child should have, but we have at all times from forty to fifty children not supplied with homes. A number of them are children, perhaps of a widow who for a little time wants them taken care of until she can take them again. Again and again a mother will come to us with four to six children, and we take care of them sometimes for six months or a year and then the mother may take them back again, and another case the mother dies and the father doesn't wish to board them out or give them away and he brings them to us and pays us a small sum, if he is able to, a dollar a week for each child, and sometimes fifty cents. Sometimes after a time such fathers forget them and leave them with us; and then the agreement is that we find a home for them.

I will ask what you do with children that you can not find a home for. We have some children that have been out four or five times, that no one will take and keep. We train and care for all of them as best we can.

We would be glad to have any of you go to the Home of the Friendless any time to-day or to-morrow; to-morrow is our annual donation day. From half-past five to seven we serve a supper to which we invite any who wish to come. We try to teach the girls to sew and the boys to do such work as we can. We try never to keep them more than to eleven or twelve years of age. And I would be very glad to have any twenty-five children of the Children's Aid Society that have been placed in the best homes you have taken, and compare them in manner and deportment and knowledge with twenty-five children taken out of our Home, that have been with us from one to two years. I don't say that such an institution is better than a good Christian home, but my experience has shown that it is very difficult to find good homes for children. And I think that such an institution keeping the children until a home is found, and taking them back if the home doesn't prove such as they ought to stay in, is doing a great work, and a good work. I want to say that much for our institution, but I desire you to know that we are not antagonistic to the Children's Aid Society. We desire to work together and to learn from them, if there is anything that they can teach us. (Applause.)

We take children from the poor house, they cannot stay there, and we are paid \$1.50 a week for them. That includes the board and schooling and clothing and everything. Only a small part of our children come through the almshouse, because our institution is so well known in this county and other counties—for they sometimes come to us from other counties—and they are brought to us. It is also a Home for the Friendless: we often take in a mother with her children, and then in the same grounds with the institution where the children are kept, we have a building for the care of old people, and we are just now completing an addition to it, and we take old people and care for them; it is all under one organization and one set of officers. We didn't know at first what to do about the black children; not that we hesitated to, but we were afraid if we took a black child in, the others wouldn't treat it right, and it wouldn't be happy; but a child was brought to us, and Mr. Lowry who gave part of the building, I think made a stipulation that there was to be no distinction in color; when I was asked what we should do about this child, I said we must

take it; and we found that the children made a regular pet of her, and so we take the black children in and they are treated as well as the others.

To answer the question about the children with the mother; if that mother was here, and able to work, we would take her and the two children into the Home for a time and let her work and keep the children; but boys at that age ought very soon to be at some kind of work, and homes should be found for them.

*Mrs. Benton:* Is there an Aid Society in McKean county?

*Mr. King (of McKean):* We never take children without their parents. The Ladies' Aid Society takes care of those children. Mrs. Lewis Emery and Mrs. Geo. A. Berry—but we take parents with children and find homes for them, but in this case the father isn't able to work and I, out of pure sympathy for the woman, have kept the children with me. We kept our children last year for \$1.20, including board and clothing and medical attendance and send them to school, and as far as their comfort is concerned I think they are as well off with their mother as they would be with strangers.

It was moved that the discussion here close and the subject on the programme be taken up. Agreed to.

*President:* Mr. Ross, who is next on the programme for an address, is not with us, and we will now take up the report of the Poor Law Committee, presented by the chairman of the committee, Col. Gould.

*To the Officers and Members of the Association of the Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania:*

Your Committee, to whom was intrusted the duty of preparing a general bill to be submitted to the next legislature—after the same had been approved by this Association—revising and codifying the laws of the State relating to the relief, care and maintenance of the poor in the Commonwealth, have performed the duties assigned them, and they now respectfully submit their report.

The Committee have given much careful attention to the subject, and in the progress of their work have endeavored, as far as possible, to eliminate everything not absolutely essential, that would tend to pro-



voke opposition, and have incorporated and retained those provisions which were believed to be absolutely requisite to accomplish the results desired.

Two general meetings of the Committee have been held, one at Harrisburg and the other at Philadelphia, which were attended by other members of the Association, who gave the benefit of their experience and advice. At these meetings all branches of the work were discussed and carefully considered, and a bill has been prepared which, although imperfect, meets the approval of the whole Committee.

The improvements and reforms which this Association has for years sought to introduce, in the care and maintenance of the poor, have been prevented, and all efforts in that direction have proved abortive because of the want of a uniform system of poor law administration throughout the Commonwealth.

Through the efforts of this Association a law was passed by the legislature of 1889, authorizing the Governor to appoint a commission to prepare a bill, to be submitted to the next legislature, revising and codifying the poor laws of the State. The commission appointed by Governor Beaver, under that Act, was a very able one. The members made an exhaustive study of the various systems that have prevailed both in this country and abroad, and they prepared and have left, as the result of their labors, much valuable information which will long be a subject of study and reference by the students of social science and political economy.

The bill prepared by the Commission was to some extent ideal in its nature, and very radical in some of the changes proposed; but it was broad and comprehensive, and well adapted, in the main, to accomplish the reforms and improvements desired.

Your Committee have taken the bill prepared by the Commission as the basis of the one they now submit to, and attached to this report. They have eliminated some provisions incorporated in that bill, modified and changed others, and added some new features which were thought important.

When it is understood that in almost every one of the separate poor districts in the State there is some special provision guaranteed to it by a special Act of the Legislature, to which, by long use, the people are accustomed, and knowing no better way, are attached, which provision often bestows upon certain officials emoluments which they are reluctant to relinquish, it is easy to see how difficult it is to frame a general Act that will satisfy every one, or such a bill as will not from many sections provoke bitter opposition.



Could the taxpayers in the overseer districts fully understand how much more it costs to support the dependent poor, and also become aware of the advantages of the county districts with almshouses in which the inmates are better fed, clothed and housed at a much less expense, it would require little effort on our part to abolish the overseer system and township districts; the people themselves would, for economic, as well as philanthropic reasons, demand a change.

It is a lamentable fact that very few of our best informed and most public spirited citizens take very much interest in public charities, and the great body of the people give the subject no attention whatever. For this reason it is very difficult to create a public sentiment in favor of changes and improvements which our advanced civilization and broader realization of universal brotherhood demand, and which are sought to be attained in part by the proposed bill which is submitted for your approval.

On the other hand, it is an encouraging fact that when our people do become interested in public or private philanthropy, and abuses are discovered, or imperfect, faulty or unnecessarily expensive methods exist, they are not slow in putting the necessary machinery in motion to bring about the changes required.

The Committee would recommend that steps be taken by this Association to bring to the attention of the people of the State the advantages of the county system of poor districts, the evils and faults of the township and overseer districts, and the necessity of the passage of a general law making uniform the system of caring for and maintaining the poor of the Commonwealth.

With these suggestions the Committee now submit to you the bill prepared by them, with the hope that it will be given your careful consideration.

#### AN ACT.

For the relief and employment of the poor within the several counties of this Commonwealth and for the establishment of a State poor law department.

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same that from and after the first Monday in January, 1894, the poor of this Commonwealth shall be relieved and employed as hereinafter provided.

SEC. 2. There shall be instituted forthwith upon the passage of this Act a State poor law department, and the Governor shall for that purpose nominate and by and with the advice and consent of two-thirds of all the members of the Senate appoint a commissioner to be at the head of such department and the said commissioner shall hold his

office for the term of four years, and until his successor shall be appointed and duly qualified, and shall receive an annual salary of four thousand dollars payable quarterly by warrant drawn by the Auditor General on the State Treasurer. The necessary office room for such department shall be provided at the capital.

SEC. 3. The commissioner shall be styled "The Poor Law Commissioner of Pennsylvania." He shall have the general direction and supervision of the administration of the relief of the poor throughout the State according to this Act or such laws as shall be in force at the time being, and for executing the powers given to him hereby, the commissioner is hereby authorized and required from time to time as he shall see occasion to make, and issue all such general rules and regulations for the government of poor law institutions for the custody, maintenance and training of poor children, and for carrying this Act into execution in all other respects as he shall think proper, and the commissioner may at his discretion suspend, alter or rescind such rules and regulations or any of them, but the said commissioner shall not have power to order relief in any individual case. The commissioner shall have power by summons under his hand and seal to require the attendance of witnesses to administer to them an oath or affirmation, and to examine them and to require them to produce any books or writings upon any question or matter connected with or relating to the administration of the laws for the relief and employment of the poor.

SEC. 4. The commissioner shall cause to be made a seal of his department and shall cause to be sealed or stamped therewith all rules and regulations made by him in pursuance of this Act, and all such rules and regulations, or copies thereof sealed or stamped with the seal of the said department shall be received as evidence of the same respectively without any further proof.

SEC. 5. No rule or regulation made by the commissioner shall be of any force or validity until twenty days after the same, duly signed and sealed, shall have been submitted to the Governor and the Attorney General and returned by them to him with their approval, and it shall be the duty of the commissioner immediately upon such approval to send a written or printed copy or copies of the same by mail addressed to the directors of the poor or their clerk and to the clerk of the court of quarter sessions of the peace of each county, and such directors and clerks are hereby required to keep and preserve the same and give such publicity thereto as the said commissioner shall prescribe.

SEC. 6. The commissioner shall once in every year submit to the Governor a general report of his proceedings including a copy of each rule or regulation by him made as aforesaid, and shall from time to time, if directed, give to the Governor such information respecting his proceedings as he may require.

SEC. 7. The commissioner shall have power from time to time to appoint one clerk and two general inspectors and to remove them at discretion and appoint others in their stead, and the said general inspectors and the clerk shall receive a salary of eighteen hundred dollars

per annum, payable monthly by the State Treasurer upon the certificate of the commissioner and in addition thereto the commissioner, the general inspectors and the clerk shall be re-imbursed for traveling and other incidental expenses made necessary in the discharge of their duties which expenses shall be paid on vouchers itemized, sworn to and approved by the commissioner.

SEC. 8. Each inspector shall have the same power as the commissioner respecting the examining of and compelling the production of books and papers, and the commissioner and any inspector under the direction of the commissioner shall have power at all times to enter and inspect all poor law institutions, examine the inmates and all provisions for their relief and employment, to examine all records, accounts, contracts or other writings connected with the same, to attend the meetings of the directors and of the auditors, and generally to see that the rules and regulations are observed.

SEC. 9. If any person upon examination under the authority of this Act shall willfully and corruptly give false evidence, he shall be guilty of willful and corrupt perjury, and any person who shall willfully refuse to attend in obedience to any summons of the commissioner or to give evidence, or shall willfully alter, suppress, conceal or destroy, or refuse to produce any books, contracts, agreements, accounts or writings, or copies of the same which may be so required to be produced before the commissioner or inspectors, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and on conviction be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars and suffer an imprisonment not exceeding six months, or both, or either at the discretion of the court.

SEC. 10. Witnesses summoned and attending shall be allowed witness fees and mileage as for attendance at court, to be paid by the directors out of the poor fund of the poor district or districts interested. *Provided* that no person shall be compelled to appear as a witness or to produce in evidence books, etc., except within the poor district in which the witness resides or to which the books, etc., relate.

SEC. 11. Each county of this Commonwealth shall constitute a separate poor district, and at the next general election after the passage of this Act the qualified voters of each county shall elect three directors of the poor for the poor district composed of such county; one to serve one year, one to serve two years, and one to serve three years, and annually thereafter one to serve three years from the first Monday of Januray next after their election and until their successors shall be duly qualified. *Provided*, that in any district hereafter established or coming under the operation of this Act the directors shall be elected at the succeeding general election as hereinbefore provided. The directors and their successors shall be known as "The directors of the poor of ..... county," and shall forever thereafter in name and in fact to all intents and purposes relative to the relief and employment of the poor be, and they are hereby declared to be bodies politic and corporate in law, and shall have perpetual succession, and may sue and be sued by the name style and title of "The directors of the poor of ..... county," and by that name receive, take and hold lands, tenements and



hereditaments and any goods and chattels whatsoever of the gift, alienation or devise of any person and dispose of the same for the benefit of the poor aforesaid. Each director shall before entering upon the duties of his office give a bond to the Commonwealth for the use of the county for the faithful discharge of his duties and the proper application of any moneys which may come into his hands in such sum, and with such sureties as may be fixed and approved by the court of quarter sessions of the proper county, and the directors may at any time be required to give additional bonds at the discretion of the said court. *Provided*, that in poor districts where there are already elected three directors of the poor, the directors then in office shall serve their term of office under the provisions of this Act, and in districts where more than three have been elected they shall serve their full terms and no election shall be held under this Act until their number has been reduced to three.

SEC. 12. The directors of each county shall meet and organize on the first Monday in January of each year, and proceed to choose a clerk and to fix his salary, and make an estimate of the probable cost and expense of providing necessary accommodations, relief and employment of the poor of the county for the ensuing year, and for the first year the probable cost of the relief of the poor shall be based upon the average cost throughout the county for the relief of the poor during the three preceding years. The probable cost for accommodation, including the expense of purchasing land, erection of buildings, improvements, machinery, furniture and stock, or either of them shall be certified under the hands of the directors, attested by the clerk and a copy thereof delivered to the county commissioners. The estimated cost and expense of employment and relief to the poor and other expenses shall be separately certified in like manner and a copy thereof delivered to the county commissioners. *Provided*, that in counties where the general tax levy is required to be made before the first Monday of January the foregoing estimates shall be furnished to the county commissioners at least ten days before the general tax is required to be levied. And the county commissioners are hereby authorized and required to assess, levy and cause to be collected the amount or amounts so certified in addition to the ordinary county tax to be levied upon the basis of the last adjusted valuation made for county rates and levies, and to be collected in the same manner as other county taxes are collected in said county, which sum or sums so levied and collected shall be paid from time to time as the same is needed to the directors by the county treasurer upon the warrants of the directors. The accounts of the directors shall be audited annually by the county auditors at the same time and in the same manner in all respects as is now or may hereafter be provided by law for auditing the accounts of the county commissioners. And the county commissioners are hereby further authorized and empowered to borrow money for the purpose of this Act and issue bonds therefor and such bonds shall not be of a denomination less than one hundred dollars nor bear interest at a higher rate than six per centum per annum. They shall be payable by the county, shall not be sold.



below par and shall not be subject to taxation except for State purposes.

SEC. 13. The directors shall provide for the employment and relief of the poor of the county in a suitable poorhouse or poorhouses within or without the county. The directors may employ and fix the compensation of a superintendent, such superintendent to be elected for a period of three years subject to removal for infidelity to the duties of his office or for incompetency ; they may also employ and fix the compensation for a matron or matrons, a physician or physicians, surgeon or surgeons, attorney or attorneys, treasurer and such other officers, attendants and assistants as may be necessary, and discharge them at will. The directors shall also have the power to appoint in each township, borough and ward a relieving officer or agent who shall administer relief therein under the supervision of the directors and pursuant to such rules and regulations as may be prescribed. The directors may require any officer or employe appointed or employed by them under this Act to give a bond or bonds for the faithful discharge of their duties.

SEC. 14. The directors, relieving officers and superintendents of almshouses shall have power to administer oaths or affirmations in all matters relating to the duties of their office.

SEC. 15. When the directors of any county shall by resolution determine that it is necessary to purchase land for the purpose of carrying this Act into execution they shall certify such resolution to the clerk of the court of quarter sessions of the peace of the county who shall make a record thereof and thereupon the president judge of said court if he be a resident of the county and if not then a resident judge thereof to be assigned by the president judge, and the directors shall constitute a board for the purpose of purchasing such land. The said board shall meet at a time and place to be fixed by the judge serving thereon who shall act as president thereof. Each member of the said board shall have at least five days' notice of the time and place of meeting. The said board, or a majority thereof, shall proceed forthwith to select and purchase upon the credit of the county such land or lands with improvements, if any, and appurtenances as they may deem necessary and sufficient for the relief and employment of the poor of the county, and shall take a conveyance or conveyances therefor in the name of the directors of the poor of the county, their successors and assigns. The said board shall certify their proceedings and the conditions of purchase upon which they may have agreed under their hands and seals to the clerk of the court of quarter sessions of the peace to be filed and entered as a part of the proceedings, and the said clerk shall thereupon deliver to the clerk of the county commissioners a certified transcript of such proceedings. The purchase money in accordance with the conditions of such purchase shall be paid or secured by the county commissioners.

SEC. 16. When the directors of any county shall by resolution determine that it is necessary to erect, enlarge, rebuild or alter the plan of any building for the purpose of carrying this Act into execution they shall procure plans and specifications for all of such work determined upon and submit the same to the poor law commissioner, and no build-

ing shall be erected or enlarged or other permanent improvement made or contracted for without his approval and consent. When the approval and consent of the poor law commissioner is obtained to such plans and specifications the directors shall have power to let a contract or contracts in accordance with such plans and specifications by public advertisement as directed by the commissioner by endorsement upon said plans and specifications.

SEC. 17. After the completion of the buildings, etc., directed by this Act to be erected, notice shall be given by the directors to the overseers or other authorities in charge of the poor in the several districts in each county requiring them forthwith to bring the poor of their respective districts to the said poorhouse or poorhouses provided to receive them, which order the said overseers or other officers in charge of the poor are hereby required to comply with or forfeit the cost of all future maintenance, except when in case of sickness or other sufficient cause any poor person cannot be removed, in which case the directors shall provide for the relief of such poor person until he can be removed to the poorhouse.

SEC. 18. As soon as the overseers of the poor or other officers having charge of the poor shall have been superseded in such charge by the directors, their offices shall terminate and the said overseers or other officers shall settle their accounts and have them duly audited and in case such overseers or other officers have in their hands a balance due the district such balance shall be paid over by them to the proper supervisors of roads of the township, township treasurer, or city or borough treasurer respectively for the use of the same township, city or borough respectively, and in case any balance shall be due such overseers or officers then it shall be the duty of the supervisors of the township or the city or borough councils to re-imburse them. *Provided*, that in case such overseers or other officers shall have had charge of the poor in a district composed of several territorial divisions, then such balance due from or to the overseers or other officers shall be divided and paid to or by the said several divisions upon the basis and proportion of the amount of the last tax levied and collected in each for poor purposes and the sum due to or from each division shall be settled by the auditors.

SEC. 19. The courts of quarter sessions of the peace of the several counties of this Commonwealth shall have jurisdiction and are hereby authorized to decree the public or private sale of any real estate now held for poor law purposes in any county, city, borough, township or poor district at such time and in such parts and parcels and upon such terms as in the opinion of such court may be considered just and proper, and the said court shall make such order respecting the proceeds of such sale as justice and equity may require. The application for such sale may be made by the councils of any city, the council of any borough, the commissioners of any county, or the supervisors of any township wherein or whereby the same may have been purchased and owned, which said city, borough, county or township constitutes a separate poor district which by this act is superseded or abolished or by

any twenty-five taxpayers of the district and shall be verified by affidavit. The court may appoint such auditors to ascertain the facts relative to such application and such commissioners to make the sale as may be by them deemed expedient. In case any present district extends into more than one county the court of the county which now has jurisdiction thereover respecting the poor laws shall have the powers conferred by this section.

SEC. 20. All penalties, fines and forfeitures which are now payable by virtue of any law to the overseers of the poor of any poor district shall from and after the passage of this Act be payable to the directors of the proper poor district. Any justice of the peace, clerk of a court, sheriff or other officer who may by virtue of any law of this Commonwealth receive any such penalty, fine or forfeiture or portion thereof for the use of the poor of any district shall give notice of the same in writing within ten days thereafter to the clerk of the directors of the respective poor district and the said clerk shall forthwith receive and receipt for such penalty fine or forfeiture and pay the same to the treasurer of said poor district. And it shall be the duty of the directors in case any justice of the peace, clerk of a court, sheriff or other officer neglects to give such notice or fails to pay over the said money upon demand to prosecute such officer for misdemeanor in office and such officer upon conviction in the court of quarter sessions of the peace shall be sentenced to pay a fine not exceeding one hundred dollars for the use of the directors of the poor of the poor of the poor district or give bail to pay the same within ten days or be committed to the county prison until such sentence be complied with.

SEC. 21. The said directors, of whom two shall be a quorum, shall meet at least once each month at the poorhouse for the transaction of business, and the clerk shall record their proceedings in a book to be provided by them for that purpose at which time they shall thoroughly inspect the said poorhouse and premises.

SEC. 22. Each director shall have power by written order directed to the superintendent to admit persons entitled to relief under this Act to the poorhouse. The superintendent may also in emergency receive into the poorhouse and provide for any person until the next meeting of the board. All admissions upon orders or otherwise shall be acted upon by the board at its next meeting.

SEC. 23. Each director shall receive three dollars for every day necessarily spent and three cents circular for each mile exceeding one mile necessarily traveled by him in the discharge of the duties of his office.

SEC. 24. In case of vacancy in the office of director by death, resignation or otherwise, the remaining directors shall fill such vacancy by appointment of a person to serve until the next general election when another director shall be elected to serve for the unexpired term of the director whose place has become vacant.

SEC. 25. A settlement may be gained in any poor district by any person married or single who *bona fide* comes to inhabit therein and continues to reside there for one year. Persons born in a place whether legitimate or illegitimate shall be deemed to be settled there unless the



parent having their custody be settled elsewhere, and all children shall follow the settlement of the parent or parents, step-father or step-mother having their custody until the age of sixteen years.

SEC. 26. It shall be the duty of the directors of each poor district to provide for every person within the poor district who shall apply to them for relief in accordance with the provisions and true intent of this Act.

SEC. 27. If such person be a child under the age of sixteen years it shall be the duty of the directors to provide for his proper training and employment and for this purpose under the rules and regulations to be made by the poor law commissioner they are authorized and empowered to maintain such child in some respectable family in the State or in an industrial school or other suitable institution until he attains the age of sixteen years. But no child between the ages of two and sixteen years shall be maintained in the poorhouse for more than sixty days.

SEC. 28. In case any such poor person shall have no settlement in the district where he applies for relief it shall be the duty of the directors, as soon as may be, to notify the directors of the place of his settlement of the facts, and from the time of such notice the cost of his relief shall be charged to the district of his settlement. If the directors so notified refuse or neglect to receive him the directors furnishing such relief may apply to the court of quarter sessions of the peace of their county, or to any judge thereof by petition setting forth the facts for a citation to the directors so refusing or neglecting, requiring them to appear before such court at a time to be specified therein and show cause why an order should not issue for the removal of such poor person into their custody to be provided for by them, and the said court shall proceed to hear and determine the cause upon its merits, and their decree thereon shall be final unless an appeal therefrom be taken within thirty days. The citation herein provided for may be served by any officer of the law or by any agent of the petitioners and such service may be made by delivering a copy thereof to one or more of the directors named therein or their clerk being within any county of this Commonwealth and shall be served at least twenty days before the day fixed for such hearing.

SEC. 29. In case an order of removal is granted by any court of quarter sessions of the peace under the provisions of this Act the court shall in the same order require the directors of the place of settlement to pay the petitioners the cost of the proceeding, the expenses of removal and the proper charges for the relief of the poor person from the date of the notice first above provided for, all of which expense, costs and charges shall be ascertained and allowed by the court. If an order of removal is refused the cost of the proceeding shall be paid by the directors petitioning therefor.

SEC. 30. If any person shall bring or send or cause to be brought or sent any poor person from any place without this Commonwealth to any place within it, or from any place within this Commonwealth to



any other place within it where such poor person was not last legally settled and there leave or attempt to leave such poor person with intent to relieve himself or some other place or district of the maintenance of such poor person he shall forfeit and pay the sum of one hundred dollars for every such poor person brought, sent or caused to be brought or sent, the same to be sued for and recovered by the directors of the poor district before a magistrate, justice of the peace or alderman and when recovered shall be held for the use of the said poor district, and be and become liable to pay all the costs and charges respecting the maintenance and removal or either, of such person to be sued for and recovered by the directors of the poor district into which such poor person may have been brought or sent, as ordinary debts are sued for and recovered.

SEC. 31. The husband, the wife, the father, the mother and the children respectively of every poor person shall at their own charge, being of sufficient ability, relieve and maintain such poor person at such rate as the court of quarter sessions of the peace of the county where such person resides shall order and direct on pain of forfeiting a sum not exceeding twenty dollars for every month they shall fail therein, which shall be levied by process of said court and be applied to the relief and maintenance of such poor person. And it shall be the duty of the directors or either of them to make suitable applications to the said court in all such cases.

SEC. 32. If any person being within this Commonwealth of Pennsylvania shall separate himself or herself from his wife or her husband without reasonable cause or shall desert his or her children and shall neglect in any such case to provide for their support and maintenance, it shall be lawful for any alderman, justice of the peace or magistrate of any city or county upon complaint made by any director of the poor or by any party thus aggrieved to issue his warrant to any constable or police officer of the said city or county, therein authorizing him to take and seize so much of the goods and chattels and receive so much of the rents and profits of the real estate of such man or woman as in the judgment of the said alderman, justice of the peace or magistrate shall be sufficient to provide for such wife or husband and to maintain and bring up such children, which sum or amount shall be specified in such warrant and when collected from time to time the constable shall immediately pay over the same to the said alderman, justice of the peace or magistrate who shall without delay pay the same to the party entitled thereto, the said wife and husband being competent as a witness for all purposes under this Act.

SEC. 33. The warrant aforesaid shall be returned to the next court of quarter sessions of the county when it shall be lawful for the said court to make an order for the payment of such sums as they shall think reasonable for the purposes aforesaid with costs of suit, and therein authorizing any constable of the county to dispose of the goods and chattels aforesaid by sale or otherwise and to collect and receive the rents and profits aforesaid or so much of either as in the judgment of the court shall be sufficient for the purpose aforesaid.

SEC. 34. That in all suits now pending in any of the courts of this Commonwealth in the name of the directors of the poor of any district in pursuance of the Act of Assembly of June 16th, 1836, entitled: "An Act relating to the support and employment of the poor." (P. L. of 1836, page 547, sections 29, 30, 31 ;) all proceedings had therein, may upon petition of the party entitled to receive the money, be transferred and the caption so changed that such suit shall stand in the name of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for the use of the person or persons for and on account of whom the suit was originally brought the same as though under this Act and in any case in which there are only minor children the proceedings may be in the name of a guardian or trustee.

SEC. 35. If any husband or father shall separate himself from his wife or from his children or from his wife and children without reasonable cause or shall neglect to maintain his wife or children, it shall be lawful for any alderman, justice of the peace or magistrate of this Commonwealth, upon information made before him under oath or affirmation, to issue his warrant to any constable for the arrest of the person against whom the information shall be made as aforesaid, and if upon hearing the complaint appears to be well founded, bind him over with one or more sufficient sureties to appear at the next court of quarter sessions of the peace there to answer the said charge of desertion.

SEC. 36. The information proceedings thereon and warrant shall be returned to the next court of quarter sessions of the peace when it shall be lawful for the said court, after hearing, to order the person against whom complaint has been made, being of sufficient ability to pay such sum as said court shall think proper for the reasonable support and maintenance of the wife or children, or both, and to commit such person to the county prison, there to remain until he comply with such order or give security by one or more securities to the Commonwealth in such sum as the court shall direct for the compliance therewith.

SEC. 37. Whenever the court of quarter sessions of the peace commit any person to the county prison under the provisions of the preceding section, it shall be lawful for the said court at any time after three months, if they shall be satisfied of the inability of such person to comply with the said order and give such security, to discharge him from imprisonment.

SEC. 38. The cost of all proceedings, by virtue of sections thirty-seven and thirty-eight of this Act, shall be paid by the prosecutor or the defendant, or jointly between them, or by the county, as the court may direct.

SEC. 39. When any person shall become a charge upon any district under the provisions of this Act, the directors, or either of them, may present his or their petition, setting forth the facts of chargeability to the orphans' court of such county and attach thereto an inventory of all property, real, personal or mixed, which may be owned by such poor person or to which the directors may believe the said poor person is entitled, and thereupon the said court shall issue a citation to the said poor person requiring him or her to appear and show cause why the said court shall not decree that the said directors shall and upon hearing, the

said court shall be empowered to make such decree that the said directors shall be and become to all intents and purposes guardians of the person and estate of such poor person with all the rights at law now enjoyed by the guardians of the persons and estates of minor children. No poor person in such case shall be discharged from such guardianship and his property shall not be released therefrom until he has made application to the said court by petition for a citation upon the directors, and after service thereof, has fully satisfied the court that he has become able and willing to resume control of his own person and estate, and that the said district has been fully reimbursed for the expense of his maintenance or that all of his estate has been applied thereon. The cost of such proceedings, including attorney's fee, to be taxed by the court, shall be paid by the petitioner unless otherwise ordered by the court.

SEC. 40. In all cases where it shall be ordered that relief be given in a poor house and the person to be relieved refuses to enter the poor house or to abide by the rules applicable in such cases, no relief shall be furnished to such person.

SEC. 41. If any poor person, an inmate of a poor house, refuses to perform the labor prescribed in his case by the proper authority, injures, destroys or defaces the property of the institution, or in any manner becomes insubordinate, the directors may make complaint against him before some justice of the peace, alderman or magistrate of the county. In case of complaint made under this section, it shall be the duty of the said justice of the peace, alderman or magistrate to summarily hear such complaint, and if he adjudge such person guilty of the offense charged, to commit the offender to the county jail, house of correction, or workhouse for a term not exceeding six months with or without labor, the costs to be paid by the poor district.

SEC. 42. If any person who has received relief in a poor house in any county of this Commonwealth departs therefrom without being duly discharged and is found within one year after applying for relief or begging, he shall be deemed a vagrant, and it shall be the duty of the directors to make information against him according to law.

SEC. 43. The directors of each district shall be allowed their expenses in attending the annual meetings of the Association of State Directors of the Poor, or other poor law conference in the State, and in addition thereto, to pay their proportion of the cost of such convention or conference, not exceeding twenty dollars annually.

SEC. 44. It shall not be lawful for any director of the poor to be concerned or personally interested in any contract for furnishing supplies for the maintenance of the poor, for the construction or improvement of property under their control, or in the purchase of any thing or property from the poor district of which he is a director. Any violation thereof shall be deemed a misdemeanor in office, and upon conviction thereof, the party or parties so offending, shall be fined in a sum not exceeding five hundred dollars and shall be adjudged by the court to be removed from office.



SEC. 45. In the construction of this Act the word "commissioner" shall be construed to mean the poor law commissioner of Pennsylvania; the word "director" shall be construed to mean director of the poor; the word "district" shall be construed to mean any territorial division charged with the maintenance of its own poor; the word "poor" shall be construed to include any pauper or poor or indigent person being destitute and applying for or receiving relief from the public taxes or levies in this Commonwealth or chargeable thereto; the term "poor house" and the term "poor law institution" shall be construed to include every tenement owned, rented, occupied or used by or for the officers of any district in the relief, care or maintenance of the poor, and whenever in this Act in describing any person, or party, matter or thing, the word importing the singular number or the masculine gender only is used, the same shall be understood to include and shall be applied to several persons or parties as well as one person or party, and females as well as males, and several matters or things as well as one matter or thing respectively, unless there by something in the subject or context repugnant to such construction.

SEC. 46. The following Acts are hereby repealed so far as they relate to the relief, care, maintenance of the poor, to the administration of the poor law, to the supervision of the poor law authorities, and to poor law procedure :

The Act of March 9, 1771, entitled, "An Act for the relief of the poor."

The second section of the Act of March 24, 1803, entitled, "An Act to authorize the several courts of quarter sessions within their respective counties to lay off, alter and divide townships and for other purposes."

The Act of January 18, 1821, entitled, "An Act requiring directors of the poor to publish their respective accounts annually."

The twenty-sixth section of the Act of April 15, 1834, entitled, "An Act relating to county rates and levies and township rates and levies."

The Act of June 13, 1836, entitled, "An Act relating to the support and employment of the poor."

The Act of April 15, 1857, entitled, "A supplement to an Act relating to the support and employment of the poor," approved the 13th of June, A. D. 1836.

The Act of April 13, 1867, entitled, "An Act for the relief of wives and children deserted by their husbands and fathers within this Commonwealth."

The Act of April 15, 1867, entitled, "An Act to provide for the payment of costs in the removal of paupers in certain cases."

The Act of March 16, 1868, entitled, "An Act to authorize writs of error to the judgment of the courts of quarter sessions on appeals from the orders of removal of paupers."

The Act of April 15, 1869, entitled, "A supplement to the Act for the relief of wives deserted by their husbands in the county of Lancaster and other counties," approved the 27th day of February, 1867.

The Act of April 5, 1872, entitled, "A supplement to an Act entitled, 'An Act to create a Board of Public Charities,' " approved the 24th day of April, A. D. 1869.



The Act of May 15, 1874, entitled, "An Act defining the duties of directors of the poor where such office exists in the several counties of this Commonwealth."

The Act of May 8, 1876, entitled, "An Act to provide for the erection of a poor house and for the support of the poor in the several counties of this Commonwealth."

The Act of March 24, 1877, entitled, "A supplement to an Act entitled, 'An Act to provide for the erection of a poor house and for the support of the poor in the several counties of this Commonwealth,'" approved May 8th, 1876.

The Act of April 4, 1877, entitled, "A supplement to an Act entitled, 'An Act relating to the support and employment of the poor'" approved the 30th day of June, A. D. 1836.

The Act of May 18, 1878, entitled, "An Act supplementary to an Act entitled, 'An Act to provide for the erection of a poor house and for the support of the poor in the several counties of this Commonwealth'" approved the 8th day of May, A. D. 1876, providing for the better government of such institutions.

The Act of April 10, 1879, entitled, "An Act to authorize the directors of the poor and poor houses in the several counties of this Commonwealth to rebuild any poor houses in the respective counties where such poor houses have been or may be hereafter burned down by fire, and to authorize the county commissioners in such counties to levy and collect the taxes necessary to pay the expenses of such rebuilding."

The Act of April 22, 1879, entitled, "An Act extending the powers and authority of county auditors authorizing them to settle, audit and adjust the accounts of the directors of the poor of the several counties of this Commonwealth."

The Act of May 13, 1879, entitled, "An Act providing for the more speedy relief of poor and indigent persons in poor districts where the directors of the poor are appointed by the courts of quarter sessions."

The Act of June 4, 1879, entitled, "An Act to create poor districts and to authorize the purchase of lands and erection of buildings, to furnish relief and give employment to the destitute poor and paupers in this Commonwealth."

The Act of June 4, 1879, entitled, "A supplement to an Act to authorize the directors of the poor and poor houses in the several counties of this Commonwealth to rebuild any poor houses in the respective counties where said poor houses have been or may hereafter be burned down, and to authorize the county commissioners in such counties to levy and collect the taxes necessary to pay the expense of such rebuilding," approved 10th day of April, 1879, amending the fifth section of said Act in regard to the bonds to be given by directors.

The Act of June 2, 1881, entitled, "An Act to amend the first section of an Act entitled, 'An Act extending the powers and authority of county auditors authorizing them to settle, audit and adjust the accounts of the directors of the poor of the several counties of the Commonwealth,'" approved the 22d day of April, A. D. 1879.

The Act of June 13, 1883, entitled, "An Act to prohibit the receiving and detaining of children in almshouses and poor houses and to provide for the care and education of such children."

The Act of June 24, 1885, entitled, "An Act to provide for filling vacancies in the office of directors of the poor."

The Act of June 31, 1885, entitled, "An Act to amend the seventh section of an Act relating to the support and employment of the poor," approved the 13th day of June, A. D. 1836, authorizing the overseers of the poor of any district to purchase or lease real estate.

The Act of April 28, 1887, entitled, "An Act to authorize the courts of common pleas to decree the sale of real estate held for poor purposes in the several counties, boroughs, townships and poor districts of this Commonwealth, and the reinvestment of the proceeds thereof."

The Act of May 24, 1887, entitled, "An Act authorizing the overseers of the poor of the respective counties, townships and boroughs of this Commonwealth, to sell and dispose of the real estate of paupers insane, or to borrow money upon mortgage of of Pauper real estate."

The Act of May 13, 1889, entitled, "An Act to authorize the directors of the poor of the several counties and the overseers of the poor of the several poor districts of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to sue for and recover any and all choses in action belonging to any person who is now or may hereafter become chargeable to their respective counties or poor districts."

SEC. 47. The provisions of this Act providing for the management, care, and support of the poor, excepting those providing for the incorporation of poor districts, and the levy and collection of poor taxes, rates or levies, shall apply to all the poor districts of this State, and this Act shall not be construed to repeal by implication or otherwise any Act or Acts of Assembly not specifically recited by their titles in the foregoing section for the purpose of repeal.

*Col. Gould:* We shall not have time to discuss the merits of this bill as it ought to be discussed, but we want our work carefully investigated and criticised. On behalf of the committee I make this short report. One thing that we regard as absolutely necessary to the measure we are trying to have adopted is that there should be a head to it; and so we have provided for an officer to be called "Poor Law Commissioner of Pennsylvania," who will have the same relation to the poor districts that the superintendent of schools has, and we have given him power to appoint one clerk and two general inspectors, and have given him a seal, so that anything certified by that shall be evidence in any court, and the power to subpoena witnesses, and the Commissioner can grant an inspector the power to subpoena witnesses. We feel that is necessary, that there may be a uniform system, that he may

issue general regulations, and he shall have the supervisory work of the poor of the Commonwealth, and the power to inspect all abuses. We have framed the bill so that it gives the Directors of the Poor the full discretion that they now have, but they are under the supervision of the State Commissioner. This don't interfere in any way with the State Board of Charities. The committee don't wish to provoke any opposition. I understand that the Commission and State Board of Charities, for some reason didn't harmonize very well. We invited the State Board to be present, but they didn't do so; but there is no disposition in any way to antagonize them, they have all that they can attend to, outside of this. One man cannot go over this State and inspect it; they have a good secretary, but it is absolutely impossible for him to do one-tenth of what he ought to, to say nothing about looking after the various districts where there are not almshouses. We arrange how the money shall be raised; that in counties where there are three or more Directors we leave them in until they are reduced to three, and after that there will be one elected every year; we legislate no one out of office. We recommend that each county in the State be a district.

*A Delegate:* Are the officers to be elected or appointed; the Commissioner?

*Col. Gould:* The majority of the commission agreed with the chairman of the commission, that it was wise to elect by the people. Some say we will get better officers to have them appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate than to throw it into a political contest. Others believe that the power should be sent back to the people. We thought it wise to leave it where the commission left it, to be appointed by the Governor.

*A Delegate:* What would you do where the County Commissioners are the Directors? You can't elect one every year.

*Col. Gould:* This takes the place; it provides to elect three in those counties at once. One thing more: We have taken this pains so that not a single local bill in the State will be repealed by this Act. Only those districts that are now existing will come



under it that desire to—but first we want a general law on the statute books and then we want every district that desires to come under it.

*Mr. Worst:* You said we had a secretary and that he couldn't get over one-tenth of the work. This Commissioner will have to be a smart man.

*Col. Gould:* It contemplates a Commissioner and a clerk and two general inspectors.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* The work of the Board of Public Charities has grown so that they have placed the care of the insane in the hands of the Committee on Lunacy. Now Mr. Biddle has on his hands the looking after every jail in the State, every penitentiary, and all the work-houses and reformatories, and in addition to that all the almshouses: If the almshouses are taken care of by another Commissioner he will still have sufficient work to do.

*Col. Gould:* We have changed the settlement question considerably. (Refers to Sec. 25.) If they had been a *bona fide* resident one year we thought better to fix it that way than to let the question of whether they have paid rent or worked and done this and that, which always results in a law-suit between the two districts, to determine it. *Bona fide* residence for a year in the district, the same as to acquire the right to vote.

*Mr. Shepard:* It is difficult to grasp all of this paper in a moment, I have been asked to explain a matter: this matter of determining where a person belongs. A man comes to our district and it turns out that he belongs to another district; the old remedy was by an order of removal. And then if they claimed that he did belong to our district they could appeal from the order and the case could be tried upon the appeal. We have simplified that. (Refers to Sec. 30.) We go right into court without petition. The old remedy was a round-about way. We have had numerous cases that we have been compelled to fight through the courts. But the question is whether this isn't regular and eminently proper.

*A Delegate:* Which would be the most economical: to go into litigation or to support the pauper?



*Mr. Shepard:* I am not going to discuss that. If counties desire not to go into litigation, but to take people who don't belong to them and take care of them of course they can do it.

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* When you make a petition to the court do you go into the county that you desire to charge it with?

*Mr. Shepard:* No sir, we make the application in the county where the pauper is. It has jurisdiction given by the Act of Assembly. It doesn't affect a county that is under a special law, and if they are satisfied with the laws as they are they can remain where they are, governed by the same laws they are now. There is nothing compulsory about this.

*Col. Gould:* I think it is proper to say that any district can repeal their local laws as they desire, and if there are any special provisions that they desire to keep, that are not in this, they can retain those, and still come under this law.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* In the investigation of these matters by the poor law commission we discovered that one of the largest items of expense incurred in the care of the poor of the State was the expenses that would follow in the orders of removal. It is the practice in some counties to follow up the order of removal too carefully. I know of one case where a man was removed through three different districts on three orders of removal and the case finally went to the Supreme Court. It cost more to ascertain where that poor old creature's settlement was than it would to have kept him ten years, and he went back to where he came from originally.

That is an extreme case, but in the counties where they have the overseer system the cry was that the expense to ascertain the settlement of paupers was so much that it consumed nearly all their poor tax. So the commission looked upon this matter as a very important one.

Upon motion the Convention here adjourned.

*Col. Gould:* It has been suggested by some of those who desire to go to the almshouse that they go at four o'clock this afternoon, and I move that when we adjourn, to meet at 1:30 at the court house. Agreed to.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

Pursuant to resolution the Convention met at the court house at 1 : 30 P. M., and the following proceedings were had :

Rev. Solon Cob, of the Central Presbyterian Church of Erie, offered the following prayer :

Oh God, our Heavenly Father, our dependence is upon thee. We pray that thou wilt give us right ideas of what really to believe and to do, and may we carry out in all our ways that practical Christianity that is so acceptable on earth and must be so acceptable in heaven. Let thy favor rest upon this organization. Men and women have come here from all parts of the State. Fill their hearts with the assurance that they are doing the Master's service and may they in all things meet with the divine approval. Hear us in this word of prayer. Make us wise and thoughtful, and lead us in the right path. May we understand more perfectly what the teachings of the Master were, and carry them out in all possible ways. Be our God and guide on earth, and then save us with all for whom we care on earth and all for whom the Redeemer died, and to thy name shall be the praise and the glory forever. Amen.

Mrs. Winnie Eggleston, of Erie, here sang "Good-by, old Suawanee River," accompanied by Prof. Redmond, organist at First M. E. Church; and in response to an enthusiastic encore gave a pretty little Scotch song "Ronald and I."

*Col. Gould :* There is very much to do this afternoon and it would be a lengthy matter to go through this report. We have endeavored to prepare a bill without treading on any one's corns when it is carried out. Of course we desire in the first place to get established in the State of Pennsylvania a uniform system of administering the poor laws. Until we get that we cannot improve our system in the State. Don't try to pick little flaws. Let us in a broad spirit give and take, and try to get on the statute books one general law. There is not a district in the State of Pennsylvania, whether a township, county or other district, regulated and

governed by local laws that can modify or change it in any way except by an Act on the statute books; you cannot cure it except by a general law. They cannot pass a special law modifying the law in your district; the Constitution prohibits that. We can have no improvement in the poor laws except by a general law. We desire the assistance and co-operation of the State Board of Charities. We have framed a bill which leaves them all the power that they have, but we ask that we have a law by which we can go more into detail than it is possible for any one Board to do. We have taken a broad ground, and taken from the bill prepared by the commission appointed by Gov. Beaver what we considered necessary to make the system effective; You can work under your local law, but if you become satisfied finally that you want to come under this law you can go to the Legislature and repeal the laws that you have, but you cannot pass any new ones; but if there are some provisions in your laws that you wish to keep and wipe out others, you can keep whatever you desire to and come in under the general law. We hope there will be no antagonism to this bill. We have got to get a general law that we can amend and improve from year to year—but first let us get one on the statute books.

*President Colborn:* What action will the Convention take upon this matter?

*Mr. Robb, (of Allegheny):* I would like to make an inquiry with reference to the removal of paupers from one county to another. This provides that the petition shall be filed in the court of the county in which the pauper is; and that the proceedings shall be conducted there. I desire to ask how a decree of that court can be enforced. For instance, Erie county has a pauper which they believe belongs to Allegheny county; they get a decree of court in Erie county upon the Directors in Allegheny county to receive him: By what proceedings can the Court of Quarter Sessions in Erie county enforce its decrees in Allegheny county?

*President Colborn:* Against the Board of Directors; the same as you can enforce a judgment, by issuing a *testatum Fi. Fa.* the decrees of the court can be enforced.

*Col. Gould:* I think that Sec. 31 covers that point. A decree of the court when once entered and not appealed from is recognized by the court of another county, and that judgment is binding upon another county.

*Mr. Robb:* I don't understand that the courts of Erie county can enforce it in Allegheny county—outside of their jurisdiction.

*President Colburn:* They can enforce it by attachment.

*Mr. Shepard:* There can be no difficulty on that question. It is simply a method of procedure. You sue an insurance company out of the county, that is provided for by statute, and when a judgment is obtained against the company it can be enforced the same as though they resided in this county. There is no question about the Legislature passing a law that will enable me to get service on a party residing outside of the county. If the Directors fail to appear in answer to the summons judgment is taken against them, and when that judgment is obtained it can be enforced.

I grant that perhaps there has not been the time allowed to members of the Convention to critically examine this bill, and I go further, that if there had been, there would be as in all cases of this kind, various views on perhaps minor matters. I don't think there is any disposition, certainly not on the part of the committee to prevent any information that might be obtained in connection with this bill. I believe that every member of the committee have tried to do their duty; if they have failed it has been an error of judgment. Its general provisions have been gone over and it would take time to go over it in detail; its main features have been commented upon, and if our members are in favor of the reformed system of directing our institutions, it seems to me that unless there are some main features that have disclosed themselves by the presentation before this Convention that you don't desire, that it ought to be received with favor. At any time hereafter, if it becomes a law, there can be amendments made to it; and I say now that it is almost impossible for men to get together and agree on many things; I know as a committee we had discussion after discussion upon this, but the question is whether in the main it is a bill that ought to be received with favor. If it is not the sense



of this Convention that we should have a uniform poor law in the State and get rid of the conflicting laws that we have as soon as possible—and no one that is working under them is obliged to come in—unless they desire to. No one need oppose it on that ground. I have no interest in this bill, only the interest that every human being in this world has, who has the welfare of humanity at heart. If there is anything there that is radically wrong, point it out and it ought to be stricken out: There ought to be nothing that militates against paupers or the tax-payers. This matter has been gone over carefully by good men. The commission appointed by Gov. Beaver worked hard and one of them went to Europe in the interest of this matter and gathered all the information that he could there and that committee gave us the benefit of their learning and ability, which is incorporated to a great extent in this; and then this committee have labored earnestly and conscientiously and tried to meet the requirements of the day, and have come here and present it to this Convention for their adoption or rejection. I do say, and I feel that we should have a uniform poor law in this State. There are some objections that have been mentioned to me; some say that they couldn't favor having a head to this department, such as is provided for in this bill. I respect their views in the matter, and that is a matter for this Convention. Another matter is as to the compensation of the Directors. That can all be redressed, if there are any grievances, another way. As to the head of the department I am in favor of a head, and I don't want to take up your time to give my reasons why, but I will give them in short: I believe I would oppose a head of the department if I could be assured that we could secure men always who are thoroughly fitted for the purpose of taking care of the poor. Then my views might be different, but I am not satisfied about that. However honest a man may be, when he assumed a position of that kind, he is unacquainted with the business and not able to run it, and there are various reasons that I can give for having a head to this department. But this I do know and feel it that we should have a uniform system in Pennsylvania; no business that is run loosely amounts to anything; you must have system, and you must have someone to direct it. You might as well tell an army of men to go to battle without some one to direct them; the whole army would be destroyed and nothing would come out of it

I want to divorce your minds as to any interest I have in this bill. I am practicing law and expect to for the remainder of my active life, and I don't want anything under that bill.

*A Delegate*: What effect has our action on this bill?

*Mr. Shepard*: It gives it a start and will help move it along and help its passage.

*A Delegate*: If our action puts its through the Legislature then we ought to have more notice of it; if there was any opposition to it in the Legislature they would say it was a snap game before the Convention. I don't think it ought to be rushed through in this way.

*Mr. Shepard*: It has been handed to members here, and if there is any question that the gentleman wants to ask with reference to it, the members of the committee will try to answer it as far as they can.

*A Delegate*: I will ask whether or not the committee discussed the question of whether it wasn't placing too much power in the head of department, making him a sort of autocrat?

*Col. Gould*: There wasn't a member on the committee when they took up the bill that was in favor of the provisions as provided by the commission; it had made the State Commissioner an autocrat, and the committee changed it so it leaves the Directors about as independent as they were before in the management of their local matters, and yet gives the State Commissioner power enough to make the general management uniform; I think we have eliminated all the autocratic powers.

*A Delegate*: At that rate the head would be subject to the Directors of the Poor.

*Col. Gould*: There are certain things that ought to be done throughout the State in a uniform way.

*A Delegate*: What is the use of appointing men to attend to the business of the county or the State, when we have men elected by the people of the county to attend to the poor? What is the

use of appointing a head to attend to us? If we have no respect for the poor we better never be appointed by the people as Directors of the Poor.

Take our County Superintendents; we find them going around and visiting schools, and they spend possible half-an-hour or an hour in each school. Now we don't exactly object to that, but we find after all that it is subject to the approval of the Board of Directors—we find that in our county. I come here as the junior member from Lackawanna. But under this it is a compulsory law and that word "must" is only used a few times in the good book. And when you say to the people of a county "you must do so and so" I cannot endorse it.

*Col. Gould:* I am very glad of the remarks of the gentleman: I can see exactly where he stands and the trouble that is with him. We have been all through it.

Now the superintendent of public schools has the greatest autocratic power, and yet has he abused it? Is there a finer system of education in the world than in Pennsylvania? and why? because it is a uniform system, and that is what we want in the poor laws. We don't want one system in Lancaster and another in Erie; the Directors may be honest and pure minded, but they are doing it differently. Look at New York and Ohio and Michigan. We want to rise to where they are.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* The first meeting that this Association ever had, in 1876, this very question of the conflicting laws was the most important thing we had before us, and at every meeting since the question has been what can we do to have a uniform system of poor laws in the State? About 1882 we tried to have a commission appointed, and we succeeded in 1889; that commission went to work at once, and prepared a Bill, that was presented to Governor Beaver and transmitted to the Legislature in 1891.

In the Convention at Reading a committee was appointed to take up the matter, taking this report as a basis, and that committee has worked more faithfully than most of you know, and now they come here with the result of their work as "culled" out of the work of the commission, and that out of the best minds that they could have access to—and I don't think that any member of that committee expects this Association to put itself on record



as adopting this report exactly as it now stands, but I do want you to give it your sanction, as the foundation from which we will arrive at a uniform system. I would like to have a copy of this placed in the hands of every member of this Association and the matter left in the hands of the committee on legislation for them to present the matter at Harrisburg at the coming session of the Legislature.

The discussion of the report and the bill as presented was continued and entered into by quite a number of the delegates, and after considerable discussion it was finally agreed to postpone any action on the report and proposed bill until the next meeting of the Association.

*The President:* Mr. Chas. Lawrence, Superintendent of the Blockley Almshouse, has prepared some interesting facts with reference to "Immigration," and how it has affected pauperism and vagrancy in the State. Mr. Lawrence, I am glad to say is with us, and we will be glad to hear his address.

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:*—I take it that the Conventions of this Association are intended to be and should be strictly business meetings, and the subjects discussed should be considered entirely in that light. We are selected to represent the interests of those who support the institutions, as well as to see that those supported are properly cared for. Sentiment is very nice, and if a person desires to make a flowery speech or make himself appear as a very nice, kind-hearted man, he usually rings in a lot of it. I do not intend to do it. The plain facts should be considered, and we should look the matter square in the face and try to correct where we find a wrong, and improve the system of caring for the poor if we can. We should endeavor to discover the undeserving pauper, and not be blinded so much by sentiment as to consider all inmates of the almshouses as "God's poor." The name charity is, in a manner, misleading when applied to such institutions as the Blockley Almshouse in Philadelphia. It is not supported by charity, in the strict sense of the word. The meaning of charity, as defined by Webster, is "whatever is bestowed gratuitously on the poor for their relief." The money appropriated for the support of Blockley is a tax assessed upon every taxpayer, and is not bestowed gratuitously. It may be paid willingly or it may not, but it is a tax, and it is our duty to see that the assess-



ment is no higher than it should be. Imposters should not be admitted and supported by the taxpayers. People able to earn their living should be compelled to do it, and not have every almshouse door wide open inviting them to come in and be fed and clothed by the taxpayers. They should not be made to think "I need not bother myself looking for work, here is a home waiting for me. When I feel like going on a spree, I can be discharged with enough clothing on me furnished by the taxpayers, to sell for rum, and when I get beastly drunk, the taxpayers have men employed with horses and wagons to bring me back for treatment and tender care, so that in a short time the programme can be repeated." The interest of the taxpayer demands different treatment for such undeserving people. No man or woman with a heart would object to giving the deserving all the care and attention possible, and one of the most difficult tasks we have is to act justly. It would be much easier to be generous or liberal, but it is our duty to be just, not alone to those supported, but to those who support as well. How that can be done best is the important question for us to consider. I have been requested to address you upon the subject of "How Immigration has affected Pauperism and Vagrancy in this State." This is a subject that would require much more investigation to arrive at a full knowledge of it than you or I could afford the time to give. It is not the direct effect alone which concerns us, but the indirect as well.

In considering the subject of immigration we must recognize the fact that there is a very great difference in the character of the immigrants. They have been classed as the desirable and the undesirable. Much of the development of this great country is due to what may justly be termed the desirable class. They make good citizens; they come with a set purpose; they bring their families with them and they come to stay; they become identified with the progress of the country and feel a deep interest in the welfare of the people and the government; they bear their share of the responsibilities of citizenship and to all intents and purposes they are and should be recognized as American citizens; they pay their share of the cost of maintaining the almshouses and prisons of the country and in any allusions I may make to the American people consider that I include them.

But there is another class who are undesirable and if it were possible to weed them out and send them back to where they formerly stayed, for I cannot say they ever lived anywhere, it would be a blessing to us all. They do not possess the first quality to make them desirable associates; they are unclean and filthy in their habits; have no respect for law or order but seem to think that where they can

eke out a miserable existence the easiest, is the place for them. They have no affinity with the American people, have no love for our country, but are imbued with a spirit of anarchy and socialism entirely antagonistic to the fundamental principles of our government. They herd together like hogs and appear to have about as much laudable ambition as the animals they imitate. I have read statements made under oath that it does not cost these people over fifteen cents per day to live. When we consider the way they procure what they eat, buying it in the smallest quantities, one or two cents worth at a time, and compare it with the cost of maintaining these same people in the almshouses where supplies are purchased in large quantities by contract and from the lowest wholesale bidders, it can readily be seen that they get much better and far more food in the almshouses than they ever received before, and when they succeed in getting in it is a great inducement to them to stay as long as they possibly can.

If we look back some years, before immigration assumed any such proportions as it has of late, and compare the situation with that of the present time we can see some of the indirect as well as the direct effects of immigration. Tramps were unknown; employers and employes were contented and strikes were a very great rarity; the young men were learning some mechanical trade to fit them to become useful citizens. To-day the scene is changed, all kinds of tramps are overrunning the country; peddlers and organ grinders are met with wherever you go. All kinds of organizations and societies have been formed and controlled by foreigners, resolutions have been passed which prevent the American youth learning a trade and the result is seen by the number of young men now in the house of correction, prisons and almshouses. Idleness is one of Satan's strongest allies. It has been shown that Great Britain sent thousands of undesirable persons to this country to get rid of them.

The report of the English local government board, 1886, shows the number of persons sent here from 1851 to 1866, to be 40,154, and the amount of money spent was £152,902, say \$700,000. I have not the least doubt that it has cost us many times that amount to keep them since they came. The *London Times*, January 31, 1889, says, "That the prisoners' aid society assists convicts to emigrate, everybody knows, and probably the United States receives its full quota of the persons so aided." The Jewish Board of Guardians (a private charitable organization in London) assisted during the years 1882-86-88, 429 poor Jews, mostly Russians, to go to America. In a number of places in Europe similar societies have existed and this

country has been the asylum for the "oppressed of all nations," and the "injured criminal" who has been given so "many days to get out of the country."

There have been great changes in the character and nationality of immigrants during the past few years. In 1882, 788,992 arrived in this country, that being the largest number in any one year. In 1890 it fell off to 455,302. Compare the arrivals of the two years and note the decrease of some and the increase of others :

In 1882 England sent us.....	82,394	
In 1890     "     "     " .....	57,020	
	<hr/>	
Decrease .....		25,374
 In 1882 Ireland sent us .....	76,432	
In 1890     "     "     " .....	53,024	
	<hr/>	
Decrease .....		23,408
 In 1892 Scotland sent us .....	18,937	
In 1890     "     "     " .....	12,041	
	<hr/>	
Decrease .....		6,896
 In 1882 Germany sent us.....	250,630	
In 1890     "     "     " .....	92,427	
	<hr/>	
Decrease .....		158,203
 In 1882 Sweden sent us.....	64,607	
In 1890     "     "     " .....	29,632	
	<hr/>	
Decrease.....		34,975
 In 1882 Norway sent us.....	29,101	
In 1890     "     "     " .....	11,730	
	<hr/>	
Decrease .....		17,371

Total decrease from those countries 266,227, or more than fifty per cent.

On the other hand :

In 1882 Hungary sent us .....	8,929	
In 1890     "     "     " .....	22,062	
		<hr/>
Increase. ....		13,133
 In 1882 Austria sent us .....	13,619	
In 1890     "     "     " .....	29,632	
		<hr/>
Increase. ....		16,013
 In 1882 Italy sent us .....	32,077	
In 1890     "     "     " .....	51,799	
		<hr/>
Increase .....		19,722
 In 1882 Russia sent us .....	16,321	
In 1890     "     "     " .....	33,147	
		<hr/>
Increase .....		16,826
 In 1882 Poland sent us .....	4,672	
In 1890     "     "     " .....	11,073	
		<hr/>
Increase. ....		6,401

Total increase from those countries 72,095 or more than ninety-five per cent.

It is sad to see such a falling off of what might be considered the desirable class and such an alarming increase of the other.

Can we discover the cause ?

Mr. Powderly of the Knights of Labor, testified under oath before a committee of Congress. I will quote a few of his sayings :

"One of the first lessons that a man receives on joining the order of the Knights of Labor is that he must learn to write his name;" he is not compelled to do it, but he ought to do it if he lives up to the teachings of the organization." When asked if they restricted their membership to citizenship he replied "No, sir, we take in all men that are honorable so far as we know them to be honest. He can become a member before he lands if he is vouched for by another member."



When asked if he thought that immigration into this country of laborers was increasing or decreasing he said "it seems to me that it is increasing." You will notice this more particularly in the coal and coke regions of this country, where a few years ago the Irish, Welsh, English, Scotch and German miners were to be found, and on the railways where trackmen were employed of those nationalities, you now find, well, I don't know what to call them. If I call them Hungarians I am told they are something else; no matter what I call them, I am told they are not that, but they are called something else entirely. I know they are being imposed upon, and are working for little or nothing, and that they are driving other men out. I saw at the Scranton depot not long since, citizens of the United States, they were Welsh people, and had resided here long enough to become citizens, and they make excellent citizens, the Welsh people do; they were going back again to Wales because they could not make a living in America. Three days afterwards I was in this city (New York), and on the train that I left Barclay street on, or the train that left Hoboken on the other side, there were twenty-three of these people. They could not speak a word of English; they had their tickets (immigrant tickets purchased down at the Garden) and they were going to Scranton, or Napico, to the Anthracite region. One day last week, I am not positive just now as to the day, I saw nineteen more traveling in the same direction with the same kind of tickets; forty-two slaves, plainly speaking, took the place of the forty freemen, the forty Welshmen who went home. It is this class of people that is making this country what it is. "Now, these Welsh that I speak of, made that place as wealthy as any in the world, and they are being driven out now by those who work for a little or nothing. The name that a man ought to be proud of is no longer known among them. They have forgotten their names and are being called by numbers 1, 2 and 3; they don't live like other people even; I have gone into their homes; they roost around like chickens, only they occupy more space. They occupy bunks on the floor, and shelves are placed from the floor to the ceiling, and they cook and sleep, and do everything else in the one room, and you will see a hundred of them crowded into a room the size of this, and you can imagine the moral and political atmosphere of the community where those people live; you can imagine the feeling of the men who are displaced by that class of men; you will find them wherever there is a railroad and they are in all the mining regions. "I do not know where they come from, but they get there, and they are there, and they are a menace to our civiliza-

tion. They are taking the place of our good American miners and they are leaving to make room for these people. Our country is making a Botany Bay."

Question.—How about their morals?

Answer.—"I find very little complaint about that, as far as I know of the people; they are very economical; I have seen houses where there would be possibly thirty or forty men, and one woman who would answer all the purposes required. She would do the cooking with a little help from the men and what else she did I don't know. I know she staid all night with them, but, of course, they never let me stay all night, and I don't know what they did; so I would judge that in such a place as that the morality of that woman would not be very high. But as far as the men are concerned that would be a very different thing."

Question.—"Is that a thing of frequent occurrence?"

Answer.—"Frequent occurrence, sir; but you can't blame them for that. I don't. We are sending missionaries to Africa and all foreign lands, and importing heathen by the thousands, and we are paying them wages that nobody could live on. If they are caused to make one woman answer the calls of fifty men it is because we compel them to do it."

Question.—"What is the effect of immigration on wages?"

Answer.—"About that, of course the natural result, where two men ask for one position; the world over, the effect is to reduce the standard."

Henry Rood, of Hazelton, in a paper on "The Mine Laborers of Pennsylvania," in the *Forum*, says:

All the foreign born are not one-sixth of the population, paupers of foreign extraction are a majority of white paupers, and foreigners contribute a majority of the penitentiary inmates. The coal fields of Pennsylvania are overrun with a horde of Hungarians, Slavs, Poles, Bohemians, Arabs, Italians, Sicilians, Russians and Tyrolese, of the lowest class. Women hesitate to drive about the country roads by day, and unarmed men are not safe after nightfall.

These unclean, physically and morally, pestilential wretches from eastern and southern Europe are huddled together in small rooms containing rude wooden bunks, ideal breeding places for loathsome disease. In one of their boarding houses recently visited the police found fifty Italians massed together in one or two small rooms, and in the cellar were twenty others lying naked in the straw, sleeping head to feet like so many hogs. They live generally in gangs, in shanties built by themselves, unfit for a well-bred dog to live in. Usually

there is no ventilation; the earth may serve as a floor; drainage facilities would be a curiosity. The police will tell you that the Slav, Bohemian, Italian, and the baser Polanders are guilty of nameless crimes and vices. They go armed, and if an Italian cannot afford a stiletto he buys, begs or steals a file and grinds it down to the proper proportions.

These beings do not bring their families; they do not intend to remain and become citizens; they do not learn the language of the country; they come only to make money and return. The little city of Hazleton sends each month to southern Europe from \$75,000 to \$100,000. These degraded people are content to swarm in shanties like hogs, to contract scurvy by a steady diet of the cheapest salt pork, to suffer sore eyes and bodies rather than buy a towel and wash-tub, to endure typhoid fever rather than undergo the expense of the most primitive sanitary apparatus. They take out naturalization papers and vote at a low price per head. The foreign vote not infrequently turns a municipal or county election; and in a State contest the utmost endeavors are made to control it by both parties."

Any quantity of evidence could be produced to corroborate these statements. We are told by them that the American workman is being driven out of employment by a lot of the lowest kind of immigrants with unpronounceable names. Does that affect pauperism and vagrancy? It does not require much thought to answer the question. Is Pennsylvania more effected than the other States? Mr. Powderly spoke particularly of the miners in this State being compelled to go back to Wales. It appears that the better class of immigrants go to the Western States and the other class stop over in the Middle States. Statistics show this very plainly. We find:

STATE.	Foreign Population.	Ratio of Foreigners, supported in almshouses, prisons, etc.
New York,	23 $\frac{67}{100}$ per cent.	1 out of 63
New Jersey,	19        "	1    "    79
Pennsylvania,	14        "	1    "    65
Delaware,	7         "	1    "    78

In the Western States it looks differently:

Washington,	21        per cent.	1 out of 127
Oregon,	18        "	1    "    118
Nevada,	41        "	1    "    140
Arizona,	40        "	1    "    239
Montana,	30        "	1    "    197



STATE.	Foreign Population.	Ratio of Foreigners, supported in almshouses, prisons, etc.
Idaho,	30 $\frac{5}{10}$ per cent.	1 out of 293
Wyoming,	28       “	1   “   216
Utah,	30       “	1   “   159
Colorado,	20       “	1   “   239
New Mexico,	6       “	1   “   157
Dakota,	38       “	1   “   370
Nebraska,	21       “	1   “   189
Kansas,	11       “	1   “   143
Minnesota,	34       “	1   “   165
Wisconsin,	30       “	1   “   113
Iowa,	16       “	1   “   126
Missouri,	10       “	1   “   100
Illinois,	20       “	1   “   95
Indiana,	7       “	1   “   74
Ohio,	12       “	1   “   70

Mark the change in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Missouri. The closer they are to the Middle States the more are supported and a comparison of the figures shows that while Pennsylvania is supporting  $\frac{1}{8\frac{1}{3}}$  of her foreign population the Western States are blessed with a much better class.

I quote from an editorial article in the *Philadelphia Evening Call* of September 19, 1892:

“The statistics of immigration show that during August, 45,472 immigrants landed in this country as against 45,172 for the corresponding month of last year. For the eight months of the year there has been an increase of 50,000 over the first eight months of last year.

“It is noticeable that the heaviest increases are in the number coming from Hungary, Poland, Austria and Russia. There was a decrease in the number coming from English speaking countries. As the undesirable immigrants come in the greatest numbers from Hungary, Russia and Poland, it would seem that something in the way of a more severe restriction law ought to be passed.”

We see by this that the class referred to by Mr. Powderly are still increasing. Does it mean more Americans driven out and their places taken?

With your permission I will refer briefly to Philadelphia institutions under the direction of the Board of Charities and Correction. The Blockley Almshouse and House of Correction are both connected with this subject, as the House of Correction was established to relieve



the almshouse of drunkards and vagrants. It was opened January 15, 1874. At that time the almshouse had 4,597 inmates, 1,150 of whom were classed as vagrants. At the end of the year it had dropped to 3,972 with 421 vagrants. During that year there were 3,734 admissions to the House of Correction; 1,225 were discharged and twelve died leaving 1,097 at the end of the year. Of the number admitted 1,928 or  $51\frac{6}{100}$  per cent. were American born and 1,806 or  $48\frac{3}{100}$  per cent. were foreign. Of the number classed as American born there were, no doubt, a considerable number born in this country of foreign parents but I have not had the time to spare to sift them out. There were 294 under twenty years of age and 1,195 from twenty to thirty years old. During 1891 there were 5,907 persons admitted to that institutions of whom 3,845 or  $65\frac{9}{100}$  per cent. were American born and 2,062 or  $34\frac{9}{100}$  per cent. were foreign; 563 of these were under twenty-one years of age and 1,956 from twenty-one to thirty years old. It will be noticed that admissions increased from 3,734 to 5,907, an increase of about 58 per cent., but the increase of Americans was from 1,928 to 3,845 over 99 per cent. The increase in the number of those under thirty years of age tells a sad story. In 1874 we find 1,489 admissions; in 1891 there were 2,519 of them, an increase of 1,030 or more than 69 per cent. What does this mean? Does it not show that the young men by being deprived of their opportunities to earn an honest living are going to ruin? The population of Blockley Almshouse, including the hospital and insane departments, on December 31, 1890, was adults 3,126 and children 169 making a total of 3,295. During the year 1891 there were 7,072 admissions of whom 3,267 or  $46\frac{5}{100}$  per cent. were American born and 3,497 or  $53\frac{9}{100}$  per cent. were foreign. At the present time the population is about 40 per cent. American born and 60 per cent. foreign. But a few years ago the Americans only counted 24 per cent. to 76 per cent. foreign. Do the figures quoted show that immigration affects pauperism and vagrancy? To my mind they do. Being thrown in contact with such beings as have poured into our country during the past few years, bringing vices, crimes and diseases with them has a tendency to demoralize our own people and sink them to the level of those they associate with. It is dangerous to both physical and moral health. Something should be done and that speedily to check this flood of misery. I believe not only that pauperism and vagrancy is very much affected but that the peace and happiness of our people is seriously threatened by the invasion of such dirty hordes of undesira-

ble people coming or being thrown in our midst. We quarantine to prevent physical disease coming among us and it is certainly as necessary to protect our moral health.

*The President :* The next assignment on our programme is a paper on "Immigration," by Mr. R. D. Layton, U. S. Immigrant Inspector. Mr. Layton is here with us, and is prepared to deliver his address, but the discussion on the report of the Poor Law Committee has been continued so long that to enable Mr. Layton to keep his official engagements, he will have to leave the city at three o'clock ; he asks that he be excused from the delivery of his address, and that it be printed in our proceedings, which, if there is no objection, will be agreed to. We regret very much that we have not had the pleasure of having the address delivered as was intended.

*Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen of this Convention :—*The subject of Immigration is too large to be treated in one paper, and too comprehensive for any one to grasp in all its future bearings upon the welfare of this Republic. That unrestricted immigration to this country means lasting good or permanent harm, none can deny. Its effects are positive, because the large armies pouring in upon our shores have nothing whatever of a negative character about them. They mean good or ill to this country and its inhabitants.

Constant change is always before us, and it matters but little how we treat these seeming little things of life, unless they be settled rightly and upon correct principles and intelligently, they will return to plague us, and plead with us for an honorable solution. What then must be the responsibilities to be met when great questions confront us? Questions that involve the present and future good of ourselves, our families and our country? Let them settle themselves, says one. Time, says another, will make all things plain. "Oppose beginnings," says the third, and it is the philosophy of the latter to which I give assent. Oppose beginnings.

To every lover of this country, America stands for something. To him its traditions are sacred, and its future development in accordance with the American standard of patriotism and home life, are ambitions to which he ever looks forward with no ill concealed joy and satisfaction. I believe I state an admitted fact, that we Americans have ideals of American manhood and womanhood, and a social home life that we all desire to see maintained and strengthened. No American doubts his ability to govern himself ; he knows that he has

formed his own constitution and set up national housekeeping successfully, when the nations of the earth with one accord prophesied disaster, and almost with one accord set about to make their wails of our calamity true. Again, the puritanical morality of the east, planted deep, and I hope forever, the spirit of equality, and made impossible the growth of privileged classes. The well-being of our working classes, which demands those conditions and surroundings that so sharply distinguishes them from the same class in Europe, are matters of congratulation.

In this country the will of the majority is the law, which always arouses the patriotism of our people, and gives lasting confidences in the future of our country. Love of law and order; the exalted position of our women, the respect shown them, our care for children, our generosity in extending a helping hand to the needy, both at home and abroad, our national and individual sense of humor, our good nature and kindly manner, as one writer puts it, are national traits of character that every patriot desires to see preserved and strengthened, and we should frown upon any and all influences that tend in anywise to destroy them. For this reason a phenomenon, such as immigration, exerting such wide and lasting influences, should be critically examined, that we may know how it will affect us.

The large accessions to our numbers each year of men who have never had any training in self-government, and who have quite different traditions, must weaken our self-reliance and political capacity. Men trained to other forms of government, both local and State, with none of the principles that inspired our forefathers, and who have no inheritance of these great principles, must in the very nature of things put out of harmony those institutions which have so far worked successfully. A free ballot that is safe and of lasting good in the hands of an intelligent, self-respecting democracy, is not so in the hands of an ignorant, degraded voter. The struggle put forth by this nation to attain its present elevated condition is too precious, and cost too much suffering, blood and money to give up without a struggle, and if once lost, will require generations to regain, with everything favorable. The social problems are so interwoven and complex, that it is a difficult task to follow all their connections, or to even approximate their effects for good or evil. Like the inheritance of children from parents, it is impossible to tell whether these traits or results will be direct, immediate, or manifest themselves after a long lapse of years; hence our inability to reach conclusions that can be classed as certain. There are some questions however arising from immigration that I believe affect you in your daily work of caring



for the poor that are worthy of more than a passing notice, and I ask you to consider with me the effect of immigration and American labor, and also assisted immigration, both of which have an indirect tendency to add to the population now in our poor houses.

Competition with American labor through immigration has two phases that deserve attention. Those who argue for free immigration from the standpoint that it produces wealth, and that we should be satisfied with this increased labor force furnished us free from Europe, should also consider the effect this constant increase has upon the labor already here. Does this daily increase tend to lower wages? Does it lower the standard of living? Does it breed discontent and strikes? The mere increase of national wealth which at present seems to be the guiding star of these advocates, is of minor importance it seems to me, in comparison with the second, which embraces the great absorbing labor question, that of late years has been constantly before us in some one of its phases. Is there an observer in this broad land who fails to recognize the constantly growing discontent among our working classes?

In the presidential struggle now on, one party declares for protection of the American workman against foreign competition in goods, and the opinion is now prevalent that the government should go another step, and protect him against alien labor. It is almost impossible to measure the competition of immigration on American workingmen, but it is very considerable, and whilst it can truthfully be said that our industries are constantly increasing, yet I am positive that the increase of labor is far beyond the increase of our industries. Some ten or twelve years ago I began paying strict attention to the labor demand and supply, to see how nearly the one kept pace with the other, and I am now firmly impressed that we have a full complement of idle men for every calling and avocation in America. To illustrate: in 1882, the Commercial Telegraphers of America formed themselves into an organization for their protection and advancement. They organized unions all over this Continent, and in every city or town of any considerable size in America were to be found members of this organization. On a given day and hour it was determined, after months of careful labor and patient waiting, to ask for an increase of wages, and if refused, then with a certain signal, (the blowing of a whistle in the main office in New York City,) all the commercial operators in America were to get up from their tables and walk out. Their demand for increase of wages was denied them, and they followed the leader out of the building. It is conceded that the best talent in this profession is to be found in commercial offices, and



so confident were these men of winning, that they refused to affiliate with other organizations looking to relief. They were confident their strike could not in the very nature of the case last more than two or three days at farthest. They reasoned that without them the newspapers could not get any telegraphic news, and the newspapers would rebel; that market reports would cease, and business men would demand quotations, and with business men and newspapers thundering at the door of the Western Union, it would quickly realize its position to the public, and grant the demands of the operators. I confess I believed this view of the case to be correct, but alas, in three weeks' time the keyboards in all the offices in the United States were manned, and the strike was lost. The company had sent out its agents and procured the very help in this country that the union declared did not exist. Last year the Bricklayers' Union of Allegheny County, and the Painters' as well, joined issue with the contractors and struck for a shorter work day. They believed their organization perfect, but the bricklayers and painters, after a long struggle, were defeated; the buildings went right along, and the contractors were successful, because they simply went out into the labor market of America and got all the men they wanted. I do not believe any man knows of an industry that is or has been for many years unable to conduct business on account of a scarcity of men. We have idle men everywhere. Our cities are crowded, the streets are full of men seeking employment, able and willing to work, but none for them. We all know this, yet the gates are not closed, nor is there any restriction placed upon the foreign born coming into our midst, and supplanting our home workmen. If it be a wise measure to exclude or place under a tariff certain goods made abroad, why not in the name of common sense exclude or tax the maker of it? If one be right, then also is the other. The American standard of living must be maintained, or we all sink or lower it together. I am convinced that a reversal of the present tariff laws would be best for the workingmen, and in place of a protection on goods and a free trade on labor, we had a restriction in immigration and a free trade in goods. Competition is rendered more obnoxious and disastrous to the American laborer in these latter years, on account of the low degree of intelligence and lower standard of living of the immigrant. An American cannot get down to the habits and mode of living that pertains to many immigrants, and I thank God he cannot; it would be a public calamity if he should. To get down there, the home circle must disappear, the children turned on the streets to sell papers, black shoes and beg, the mother

and father out at work, and general squalor and filth everywhere. When this time comes, America ceases to be a Republic, and yet it will come if immigration remains practically unrestricted.

Again, the over-crowding of the labor markets of this country brings the young, active immigrant into competition with the older native, and when two men offer their services for the same job, the one perhaps fifty years old, and the other twenty or thirty, capital at once chooses the younger, because he sees more ability to perform labor in him than he does in the other, although the latter may be a citizen and taxpayer. In the strife and competition of business, the employer seldom looks at the patriotic side of the case, and the result is that very often the other turns his face toward the home of a relative or friend, and seeks such support as he can give, and in some instances goes to the poor house.

The most serious phase of immigration to this country, is what is known as assisted immigration which is of two kinds. 1st. That which is assisted to this country by the home authorities of the immigrant. In such cases the paupers, partially demented, weak minded, vicious, lazy, and criminal classes are furnished transportation free if they will immigrate. The mere statement to an American seems preposterous, to think that officers of a civilized government would conspire to play such scurvy tricks upon a neighboring friendly nation seems almost beyond belief! Yet such is the case, and until very recently very frequently the case. It is from this class that your poor houses are and will continue to be filled, or from that other larger class of assisted whose passage is paid for them by friends in this country, and who very often are unable to support or further assist them, after they have landed. These cases many of you meet every day, and until an end is put to it will be constantly on the increase.

Assisted immigration is but another name for stimulated immigration, which at present is carried on to an enormous extent. Some idea of the work of soliciting steerage passengers by the various steamship lines may be had when I cite to the fact, that the Inman Steamship Company have over 3,500 agents in Europe, and an equally large number on this side, all engaged in selling prepaid passage tickets, which are to be sent to friends abroad in order that they may come here. Think of a State not quite one-third the size of Pennsylvania with 400 agents engaged in selling tickets and you can form some idea of the stimulation given the people abroad to emigrate hither. The only object the agent has, in selling tickets is his com-

mission, and in order to accomplish this he is often forced to call upon his imagination in picturing to the wavering customer the advantages of this great country.

In addition to this, the low rate of passage assists in determining the action of the emigrant, and hence we see daily accounts during the spring months of vessels landing with twelve to 1,500 steerage, many of whom have not money enough to support them one month. By a fair calculation, I believe at least 50 per cent. of the immigrants coming to this country, arrive at our ports on prepaid tickets, and I submit to this Convention if men, unable to save or accumulate twenty or thirty dollars are the kind of material we are looking for, out of which to construct American citizens. The thoughtful student of this question has been seeking for a remedy for this ill, and among the many suggested I name a few that have been advocated by very intelligent men, each arguing eloquently for his favorite prescription, as a sure cure for this national ill, of unrestricted immigration. 1st. Educational examination, by consular inspection, by property requirement, by special tax, by physical examination, by establishing a probationary period, by steamship regulations, by enforced naturalization, and by diplomatic regulations. From personal observations and from statistics which I will submit on the illiteracy of certain countries of Europe, I favor as a restriction measure, the educational test, because it seems to me it would be impossible for a civilized government of any foreign country to insist that any of her citizens who had not enterprise, ambition or brains enough to learn to read and write, were fit to emigrate to a distant country and assume the responsibilities of citizenship in a country whose existence depends upon the intelligence of its people, if it is to endure as a Republic, nor as I believe that any treaty making power would offer any serious objection to a respectful demand upon our part that intending emigrants should have at least the rudiments of an education in order to become part and parcel of this great country. I am unable to see how this could or would work any harm to our commercial interests abroad. On the other hand I believe it is a matter that no enlightened government would object to, and in fact I believe they would admire us for thus discriminating. By refusing to receive those unable to read and write in their own language, the following restrictions would occur. The figures presented are taken from a table compiled by the specialist of Bureau of Education, entitled Illiteracy in Europe:



Year.	COUNTRY.	RATIO, ETC.
1888...	Prussia.....	0.6 per cent. of the army recruits [2.37 per cent. in 1875, 1.08 in 1880.]
1887...	Saxony.....	0.2 per cent. of the army recruits [0.28 per cent. in 1879.]
1887...	Wurtemberg.....	0.2 per cent. of the army recruits.
1887...	Bavaria.....	0.4 per cent. of the army recruits.
1887...	Denmark.....	} Less than 1 per cent. of the army recruits.
1887...	Sweden.....	
1887...	Norway.....	
1887...	Finland[Prov. of Russia]	
1887...	Switzerland.....	2.5 per cent. of the population above ten years of age.
1888...	England and Wales.....	9.0 per cent. of the population above ten years of age.
	do.....	8.3 per cent. males and 9.7 per cent. females signed by mark in the marriage register.
1886...	The Netherlands.....	10.0 per cent. of the population above ten years of age.
1888...	France.....	11.0 per cent. of the population above ten years of age.
	do.....	[In 1827, 58 per cent.; 48 in 1831, 32 in 1848, 30 in 1860, 19.5 in 1870, 14 in 1880, 11 in 1886.]
1886...	Belgium.....	15.0 per cent. of the population, while nearly 80 per cent. of the day laborers.
1886...	Ireland.....	21.0 per cent. of the population.
1886...	Austria.....	39.0 per cent. of the population.
1886...	Hungary.....	43.0 per cent. of the population.
1886...	Italy.....	48.0 per cent. [In 1881, 62 per cent. of all above six years of age; Upper Italy, 40.85 per cent.; Central, 64.61 per cent.; Lower, 79.46 per cent.]
1886...	Spain.....	63 per cent. of the population.
1886...	Russia.....	80 per cent. of the population.
1886...	Servia.....	80 per cent. of the population.
1886...	Roumania.....	82 per cent. of the population.
1886...	Bulgaria.....	85 per cent. of the population.
1886...	Turkey.....	No data available.
1887...	Scotland.....	7 per cent.

The above figures tell their own story. Comment is quite unnecessary in the presence of such startling facts. With such hordes of dense ignorance as Europe possesses to draw from, are we justified in requesting, yea, demanding a higher standard of intelligence? I leave the question with you. The latest official statistics that have come to my hand shows Pennsylvania to have one native receiving public support to 597 of the inhabitants, whilst there is one foreign born to every 147 foreigners within the State. This fact alone condemns unrestricted immigration with telling force.

*Mr. Carr:* The matter I desire to present here, I wish to present to a full Convention, as I have a resolution I wish to introduce and hope to have an expression from every member of the Association here on the matter. I would prefer to postpone it until the evening meeting. Agreed to.

Mr. Carr, in the absence of Col. Glenn, reports for the committee on place of next meeting, that it should be held in Williamsport, the second Tuesday of October, 1893.

The report is accepted and the committee discharged.



*Mr. Lawrence:* Presented the report of the committee on officers, as follows, which was accepted and the committee discharged:

President: Col. E. P. Gould, Erie.

Vice-Presidents: George E. Worst, Lancaster; Charles Tropp, Scranton; Mrs. Rebecca B. Chambers, Chester Co.; Geo. Supplee, Montgomery; O. P. Blakslee, Crawford.

Wm. P. Hunker, Rec. Secretary, Hoboken, Allegheny.

Robt. D. McGonnigle, Cor. Secretary, Pittsburgh.

John S. Hope, Treasurer, Coatesville.

Mr. Reamer presented the following report of the Auditing Committee:

#### JOHN S. HOPE, TREASURER.

Account of State Association Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania,  
for 1891 and 1892.

1891.

#### CASH COLLECTIONS.

Oct. 14.	Assesment from West. Penn'a Children's Aid Society..	\$ 5 00
"	" " West Chester Co. Aid.....	5 00
"	" " Allegheny Co. Home.....	20 00
"	" " Washington Co. Home.....	20 00
Nov. 4.	" " Elwyn Training School.....	10 00
"	" " Lebanon Co. Home.....	15 00
"	" " Adams Co. Home.....	20 00
"	" " Germantown Home.....	20 00
" 5.	" " Chester Co. Home.....	20 00
"	" " Erie Co. Home.....	20 00
" 7.	" " Cumberland Co. Home.....	20 00
"	" " Mercer Co. Home.....	20 00
"	" " York Co. Home.....	20 00
" 23.	" " Berks Co. Home.....	20 00
"	" " Allegheny City Home.....	20 00
" 24.	" " Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor Dist.,	20 00
"	" " Montgomery Co. Home.....	20 00
Dec. 1.	" " Scranton Poor District.....	20 00
"	" " Middle Coal Field Dist.....	20 00
" 3.	" " Board of Public Charities.....	35 00
" 5.	" " Bedford Co. Home.....	20 00
" 12.	" " Northampton Co. Home.....	20 00
" 16.	" " Blockley Almshouse and Asylum....	20 00
" 22.	" " Jenkins Township, Pittson Bor.....	10 00
"	" " Franklin Co. Home.....	18 00
" 10.	" " Philadelphia Aid Society.....	20 00

1892.		CASH COLLECTIONS.		
Jan.	8.	Assessment from	Huntingdon Co. Home.....	10 00
"	"	"	Lancaster Co. Home.....	20 00
Feb.	1.	"	Somerset Co. Home.....	20 00
"	"	"	Department of Charities, Pittsburgh,	20 00
"	6.	"	Schuylkill Co. Home.....	20 00
May	17.	"	Central Poor Dist., Wilkes-Barre....	20 00
"	23.	"	Lehigh Co, Home.....	20 00
"	24.	"	Westmoreland Co. Home.....	20 00
Oct.	1.	"	Borough of Sunbury.....	5 00
"	"	"	Blakely Poor Dist.....	15 00
"	"	"	Children's Aid Society of Penn'a....	10 00
"	4.	"	Delaware Co. Home.....	20 00
Balance from last year.....				43 85
				<u>\$721 85</u>

## Expenditures for 1891 and 1892.

Oct.	14.	Expense of Hall, &c., at Reading.....	\$ 26 75	
"	"	R. D. McGonnigle, Secretary.....	87 50	
"	"	Ira E. Briggs, stenographic reporter at Reading,	100 00	
Dec.	5.	Myers, Shinkle & Co., publishing report, &c..	115 50	
May	19.	" " " " " " " " " "	150 00	
June 20 and Aug.	27.	L. C. Colborn, expense of prepar-		
		ing programs, etc.....	40 00	
Sept.	5.	Myers, Shinkle & Co., balance on printing, &c.,	105 95	
		Expense of Treasurer.....	25 00	650 70
Balance in treasury.....				<u>\$ 71 15</u>

ERIE, PA., October 12, 1892.

We, the Auditing Committee, appointed by the Convention of the Poor at Erie, Pa., October 11, 12, 13, 1892, to audit the account of the Treasurer, do certify that we have examined the same and find it correct with vouchers intact.

W. D. REAMER,  
A. G. C. ETTER,  
*Committee.*

Accepted, and the committee discharged.

*The President:* If there is no objection, we will now hear from Mr. Biddle, general agent of the Board of Public Charities, who has prepared a paper on the work of the Board of Public Charities, which he will now read in place of the paper of Mr. Carr, as arranged for on the programme.

*To the Members of the Association of the*

*Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania.*

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—On the 17th day of April, 1867, Governor Geary attached his signature to the following bill, which had

just been passed by the Legislature of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, then in session: "Be it enacted, &c., That the Governor shall have power to appoint a person to visit for philanthropic purposes the prisons and almshouses of the various counties of the Commonwealth: *Provided*, no expense shall be incurred thereby to the Commonwealth."

On the 21st day of the May following, the Governor appointed the Hon. Mahlon H. Dickinson, the Commissioner, under the foregoing Act, with authority to visit the several almshouses and jails in the State, and report to him the condition of said institutions, and whether the humane intentions of the law-makers of our Commonwealth in authorizing the establishment of these institutions have been realized. The Governor and the Legislature were moved to the passage of this Act by the oft-repeated statements made in the daily press and elsewhere concerning the condition and treatment of those whose lot requires them to be cared for in institutions of these classes.

Mr. Dickinson, immediately after his appointment, visited most if not all of the jails and poor houses then existing in the Commonwealth. The information he thus obtained was embodied in several reports, which he sent to the Governor, and which were by that official transmitted to the Legislature. They make interesting but not pleasant reading. For the most part, nothing was found worthy of commendation, and condemnation differing only in degree, was meted out to all. Houses badly ventilated and drained, and poorly constructed, were filled with occupants badly clothed and poorly fed. Filth everywhere abounded, and in many cases the inmates were confined by bars and chains to their narrow quarters. As a result in great part of this investigation, the Commonwealth, on the 24th day of April, 1869, passed a bill creating the Board of Public Charities. Such Boards had been in existence for a short time previous in a few other States. The Legislature of Pennsylvania adopted wisely the view, which was the result of the most mature thought, that such Boards could accomplish more good if their province was simply advisory. It, accordingly, provided that the Board should have power at all times to visit and inspect every institution in which crime, pauperism, insanity and disease were held for care and treatment. All officers in charge of these institutions were required, under penalties, to admit the members of this Board and their agents to inspect their premises, and also to make reports to the Boards at such times and in such manner as it should prescribe. Commissioners of counties were required to submit plans for all jails and poor houses subsequently to be built therein, for the approval of the Board, and were prohibited

from erecting the same until such approval had been obtained. It was under the conditions existing at the time of Mr. Dickinson's report that the Board assumed charge of this work. Just twenty-five years have elapsed since that time. Two-thirds of the poor houses have either been entirely rebuilt, or have been so enlarged that they bear no resemblance to their original character. There are in Pennsylvania sixty-seven counties, in thirty-seven of which are county homes, in sixteen, township poor houses, and in fourteen, no organized poor house whatever.

It is highly gratifying to me to be able, in the presence of this constituency, composed as it is of Directors of the Poor and Superintendents of poor houses for the most part, to bear my testimony to the good condition of most of the county poor houses in the State. They are as different to-day from those described by Mr. Dickinson in his report, as light is from darkness. They consist mainly of buildings well constructed, well heated, well ventilated. They are provided with comfortable bed rooms, in which are well made, tidy beds, with good and ample bedding. The food is nutritious and abundant. To so great an extent is this the case, that the question has been asked whether these homes are not too comfortable; whether the manner in which they are conducted does not invite those of slender means to seek admittance rather than to fight for their subsistence outside of the homes. This, however, could and would be guarded against by proper regulations, forbidding admission except in case of necessity.

All civilized communities should see to it that when, through age or sickness, any of its members seek a home, one should be provided which shall bring no discredit upon them.

I cannot speak in the same warm terms of the township poor houses. Some of them are good, even excellent, but for the most part they are not properly equipped, and do no credit to the community. They are also too expensive. One farm, with one steward and one set of officers, should be sufficient to provide for the poor of any one county, with the exception of Philadelphia and Allegheny counties. The laws for their government should not be many or exacting. We have in Pennsylvania a population comprising almost every nationality, and every pursuit and calling. No State exceeds it in diversified industry. Large sections are devoted to agriculture. Mining engages the labors of many in large districts, whilst manufacturing of every description commands the services of as large, if not a larger proportion of our citizens. The laws governing such a population must, necessarily, be flexible. That which would be wise and proper in one section, would



be of doubtful propriety in another. Let your laws be general ; let them not deal too much with details. It might be well to have an Act passed providing that there should be at least one poor house in every county. Each county has now a population sufficiently large to justify its erection. Each has a population so enlightened as to enable it to conduct its affairs in a satisfactory manner. The great strength of Government has been owing to the fact that we have so provided in our national, State and municipal organizations that that which is local shall receive as little general interference as is possible. Let a community feel that it has devolving upon it a responsibility ; then let a properly constituted body be authorized to advise as to the best and most enlightened methods of discharging this responsibility, and the probabilities are that an institution will be created well adapted for the purposes for which it is required.

Let us now for a moment consider how far the Board of Public Charities has been instrumental in bringing about the improved condition of our poor houses. It has had as its president for the last ten years, Mr. Mahlon H. Dickinson, who, as the original Inspector, called the attention of the Governor and legislature to the bad condition then existing in our almshouses. Under his guidance, the Board has not seen fit openly to denounce the management of institutions when they have been found wanting. It has been disposed to attribute such deficiencies in management to want of knowledge, rather than to willful neglect, and it has, as it was intended it should, endeavored to bring about reforms by gentle suasion. This, it believes, it can claim that it has been largely instrumental in doing. It knows that Pennsylvania has to day for its population as large a proportion of well-conducted, well-equipped poor houses as has any other population of similar size in the world. There is much more to be done, but the tendency is constantly towards improvement, and, with little additional legislation, we would be able to secure in every county of the State institutions as well adapted for their purposes as those anywhere existing. The Board has been constant in its recommendations that politics should be kept out of the management of institutions ; but two qualifications should be required of an official to enable him to retain his position, viz: competency and honesty. A man may be an excellent farmer, but have no qualifications for a superintendent. It should be understood that, so long as a man or woman faithfully and intelligently discharges his or her duty, no change shall be made. Experience is essential to the proper conduct of a poor house, and it can only be obtained by the retention of officers during satisfactory service. Let then the quiet influences of the Board of Charities con-

tinue to be exerted in the future, as in the last quarter of a century. There are at least twenty Boards of Public Charities in as many States of this Union. They differ somewhat in their respective plans of organization. Some of them have nothing to do with prisons or prisoners; some of them have nothing to do with hospitals or private charities; but in one respect they are all alike. They are all required to visit, inspect and report upon the care of the indigent poor. It would indeed be an anomaly to have a Board of Public Charities relieved from all duties in connection with the poor. I should protest against such a measure, and I believe its adoption would result in vast injury to this class.

The other subject to which Mr. Dickinson's attention was directed, viz., that of prisons, we cannot speak of with as great satisfaction. May I not ask that the members of this Conference, representing as they do so many counties in the State, will lend a hand in bringing about the much-needed reform in prison discipline? In at least four-fifths of the jails of this State, prisoners young and old are confined for terms of less than one year's duration. They congregate in the corridors, passing their time in absolute idleness, or in worse than idleness. Many of them, lads of tender years, convicted of the heinous offence of stealing a car ride, or possibly that of plucking an apple from a tree, are frequently found playing cards with and listening to the conversation of men steeped in crime. How absurd it seems to provide at great expense school-houses in which our children shall be carefully educated, and then allow others to be brought up amid associations sure to lead to crime. That this should be the case in Pennsylvania, is most unaccountable, as we are able to boast that we possess in our State county jails which in their government and character are unsurpassed. Before the passage of our present constitution in 1874, several of our counties at their own earnest solicitation, succeeded in securing the passage of laws for the government of their county jails. This was at a time when special legislation was possible. These laws provided for the appointment in each of these counties of Inspectors, in whose hands the management of the jail was placed. The Inspectors were required to elect wardens, and provide for the employment of all prisoners entrusted to their care; also, to make such regulations as would secure separation between the different classes of offenders, and, in fine, to conduct the county jails in as efficient manner as a penitentiary. Under these laws we have model jails. The system has been tried and not found wanting. Why should it not be adopted in every county in the Commonwealth? I ask the co-operation of the members of this organization in securing such legislation

as will enable Pennsylvania to boast that she possesses the best system of county prison management to be found in America.

Since the creation of the Board of Public Charities, twenty-five years ago, the advance which has been made in the care of the dependent classes has been greater than is realized. The penitentiary in Western Pennsylvania, the Allegheny County Workhouse, the House of Correction, Philadelphia, the Huntingdon Reformatory, the Hospitals for the care of the Insane at Norristown, Danville and Warren, the Soldiers' and Sailors' Home at Erie, the Reform School at Morganza, the new House of Refuge at Glen Mills, the Deaf and Dumb Institutions at Wilksburg, Scranton and Philadelphia, and the Blind Asylum in Pittsburgh, have all been either established or reconstructed. Fully two-thirds of the county jails and county almshouses have been entirely rebuilt, whilst the hospitals and homes, public and private, have increased in still greater proportion. We have now in the State 85 hospitals and 13 dispensaries for the care of the sick and wounded, while 187 homes administer to the wants of the young and old, citizens of the Commonwealth. For the most part, the buildings accommodating this enormous number of people have been passed upon and approved, before their erection, by the Board of Public Charities. We can indeed claim that nowhere in the civilized world has greater or better provision been made for the care of the dependent classes. I believe it has been and is recognized elsewhere, but let us not fail to give credit to the people of this vast Commonwealth for the bountiful manner in which they have contributed to support those who, by force of circumstances, have been rendered less fortunate than their brothers. Let us take pride in this showing, but do not let it make us falter in well-doing, but rather stimulate us to press on, and adopt every appliance which experience and knowledge can devise for aiding the oppressed. Let us bear in mind that our mission is not to increase, but to diminish pauperism. We shall not see it obliterated, but we can and should do much (even more than we are doing) to alleviate the suffering it produces.

*Mr. Brumbaugh* (of Blair): Offered the following resolution, which was adopted:

*Resolved*, That this Association heartily approves and hereby recommends to the Legislature the passage of an Act of Assembly whereby all County Jails shall be placed under the management of Boards of Inspectors, who shall elect Wardens thereof, and require all convicts to be engaged in work of some kind.

The resolution is agreed to.

The Convention here adjourned to meet at this place at 7 o'clock.



## EVENING SESSION.

Prayer by Rev. Mr. Ross, of First Presbyterian Church of Erie :

Gracious, God our heavenly Father, thou art the being of all grace and of all mercy, and we bless thee that thou hast sent Jesus into the world to teach us how to live and to teach us the great truth that thou art the Father of all, and that thou hast made of one blood, all nations of mankind to dwell upon the face of the earth; and we bless thee that Jesus has taught us to call no one unclean, but that we are all children of the same dear Father and we are all brothers. We thank thee that his Spirit is permeating society to-day and we bless thee for the men and women touched by his Spirit, who have gone forth to alleviate the suffering and to save sorrow, who are striving to care for the orphan and to ease the misery of old age; for the men and women who are to-day helping the helpless and caring for those who cannot care for themselves. May this spirit prevail until it permeates the world. We thank thee for those who are to-night attempting to discharge the important duties thou hast laid upon them. We bless thee for the institutions that they represent, and for the people whom they represent, and we ask that thou wouldst cause many more such institutions to rise in our land. Bless these representatives in their work, not only here but at home, and grant we pray thee that they may go back with greater knowledge and with clearer light and with more zeal and more devotion, and that they may serve thee, their God, in serving their fellow men. Hear our prayer, Oh Lord, pardon all our sins, and accept of us for Christ's sake. Amen.

*Mr. John D. Carr* (of Fayette county), spoke as follows on industrial schools for dependent children;\* (Mr. Carr having exchanged places on the programme with Mr. Biddle.)

*Mr. Carr* : I have no paper prepared, for the reason that I don't intend to occupy a great deal of time in the discussion of this matter, because I expect to present a resolution and hope it may meet with a free and full discussion by every member. I consider it of very great importance to this Convention, and trust that when it comes before you you will have no hesitancy of speaking your convictions.



The idea is to convert the soldier's orphan schools of Pennsylvania, as they are now, into industrial schools not only for the soldiers' orphans, but for other indigent children, under the control and at the expense of the State.

All who have had this question to deal with know how troublesome it has been to dispose of such children. We don't expect that the adoption of this resolution and the passage of an Act by the Legislature of Pennsylvania whereby it will go into force, will in any way interfere with the good work that has been and is being done by the Children's Aid Societies. No one appreciates more than we do the grand and noble work they are engaged in. We have an Aid Society in our county and I know what an assistance they have been to us, in the disposition of children, and I trust that no one will misunderstand this matter.

It has been no doubt truthfully said that the perpetuity of the American institutions depends on the education of our children, and our president in his opening address said that education is the price of liberty. Then the education and proper training of indigent children will be apparent to everyone. Many of you have no doubt listened to the report of the lady in charge of the Home for the Friendless (Miss Sarah Reed of Erie.) She told you something of their work and no one could entertain an objection to the manner in which those children are educated.

I listened to the report from Westmoreland and Chester counties and while the societies there have no doubt done a noble work they have a great many children now on their hands that they are unable to dispose of—Westmoreland I think twenty and Chester thirty-two. We have now a number of children boarding, and have had more than a year, paid for by the Directors of the Poor. The State of Pennsylvania has provided for nearly every other class of its dependents, the deaf and dumb, the blind and the feeble-minded, and the insane, except indigent children, and yet perhaps provision for this class would be the solution of the problem of pauperism; because the education of indigent children and their proper training would have a tendency to reduce the pauperism of any State, no doubt.

I will say also that the Commissioners of the soldiers' orphan schools, are at this time discussing this question, and at their meeting to-morrow it will be before them, and I have a letter handed

to me by a member of this Convention that was given to him on the tenth, and as he was getting aboard the cars, in which he says: "I learn you are going to Erie to the meeting of the Poor Directors of the State. One question in which I am much interested may come up, and I am a member of the State Commission on soldiers' orphan schools. This system as at present conducted by the commission is a noble charity. The great pity is that under the present law it will soon run out, as no more children are being educated, while all who arrive at the age of sixteen years are discharged. The Governor and all others who know anything of the schools, favor their being continued and favor the addition to them of an industrial system and extending the advantages of the schools to other indigent children.

I think that everyone will concede the importance of making provision for indigent children at this time. I think it the most important question with which we have had to deal for many years, and I have no doubt but the members of the Board of Directors of the several counties will bear me out in the assertion. We spend a great deal of time at these Conventions, and go away with perhaps only the exchange of thought, with very little advancement, at least in the last three or four, in the means of caring for the poor. And this I think is not the place to deal with beautiful theory; it is not a theory that confronts us, but a condition. Let us provide for that condition and if there is a better way than to continue the soldiers' orphan schools, as schools for indigent children, under the protection of the Commonwealth, I am willing and would be in favor of it.

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption :

*Resolved.* That we favor the establishing of industrial schools as a means of educating and teaching dependent children some trade or employment, and that to this end we recommend the passage of an Act by our next Legislature, converting the soldiers' orphan schools of the State into industrial schools for indigent children, under the supervision and at the expense of the Commonwealth.

*Mr. Biddle:* I have to differ somewhat with the gentleman whom I esteem so highly; I cannot agree with him. It is not the first time that the same idea has been brought forward. At the

session of the Legislature in 1885, when it was supposed that the soldiers' orphan schools were about to close, a bill was introduced into the Legislature, providing for their purchase and the establishment of industrial training schools for the children who could not be retained in our almshouses; that bill only reached its first reading in the Senate.

An industrial training school is necessarily the most expensive of all schools. The equipment necessary is very expensive and very intricate. The character of the teachers must necessarily be high. Such teaching, to be efficient, must be thorough, and to instruct any number of children in industrial trades is most desirable but highly expensive. No one approves of it more highly than I, but I have always said that schools of that character should be conducted for such pupils as had shown special aptitude for the branches they were proposed to be taught.

It seems to me strange, that after the labors on the part of the Childrens' Aid Societies, whose very object was to take these children from the almshouses and to place them in the body politic, where they could receive the same care and attention that other children—children of the people of Pennsylvania in their common school system, which has been alluded to this afternoon as being a system equal to that of any other State, that those children are not to be continued there, but that the State has to purchase these schools that are now the soldiers' orphan schools, and turn them into schools for the indigent classes of Pennsylvania.

Gentlemen, I don't believe that when you establish that you will find any soldiers' orphans who will be placed in schools which are also to be schools for those who otherwise would be in the almshouses. It would raise a storm among the Grand Army. Let the children be taken and placed in private homes where they will receive a mother's care and attention, and training. Then let them go as the children of the farmer and the mechanic, and get their training there and if they show such aptitude as entitles them to a specially expensive education let it be given to them. Don't ask the Legislature to establish a system of schools of this class.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* This question has been before us quite a number of times. I think that everyone in the State, who is familiar with the soldiers' orphan schools, will agree that they



have done a good work, generally. Now they are about coming to an end. We all know there is a class of children in the State in need of some training, some finishing up and training to get them in shape to go out into families; but I don't just approve of industrial schools. I have in mind a school similar to what is known as the State Public School of Michigan.

This State says to every child that commits a crime "we have provided for you at Morganza, or the Eastern House of Refuge, but you will have to commit a crime before we will take care of you." In Michigan they establish the State public schools, conducted very much on the plan of our Morganza schools; the price of admission to that school is poverty, and the children who go there never have been convicted of crime; it means simply a public school where the children are not only educated but where they are properly taken care of and provided with what they need until they can be put into a family. The law is that a child must not be kept a day or an hour longer than until it is fit to go into a family and a family found for it.

That school has been in operation fifteen or twenty years, and while I have not visited it I have by correspondence, become somewhat familiar with its operations, and I know it is doing a good work, so good that the State of Wisconsin is just building a school similar to it, and I am informed that the State of Iowa has arranged to have her soldiers' orphan schools made into a State public school.

Now that is my idea of the soldiers' orphan schools of this State; that they should be made State public schools, and I don't mean to take one bit of work away from these good ladies of the Childrens' Aid Society; they have a large work ahead of them and will continue to do a good work. But everyone who is familiar with this work knows that there are children, and will continue to be, who are not fit to go into families until they are taught some little discipline and some matters of obedience with reference to taking care of themselves, etc. While it is true that these ladies are doing their work without having a "clearing house" for the children to go through, if they had a "clearing house," such as a State public school would afford, they would be better fitted for the family and turn out good citizens.

Many times their parents are utterly unfit to take care of them, and the child is not in condition to be put into a family without



knowing something of its disposition. If you had a place to care for it awhile, to observe, clean it up and polish it off, in a sense, so it is able to receive family training, you could do better work.

Now these soldiers' orphan schools are owned by individuals, as I understand it; if they were turned over to-day as State public schools the State would simply take the money they are appropriating now for the support of soldiers' orphans and expend it for the support of dependent children, and it don't seem to be unreasonable to ask the State to provide for a child whose only crime is poverty. They have made provision for those who have committed crimes and I don't think it is right that they must commit a crime before they can be taken care of. I would prefer to have that resolution read "A State public school," instead of "an industrial school."

*Mr. Milliken* : This is not a new question before this Association. I was interested here to-night in the resolution introduced. I am in favor of manual training schools, but as Mr. Biddle remarks, they are very expensive. The State of Pennsylvania, of course, is quite able to maintain expensive schools. That is not exactly the question, but I think it would be mistaken political economy and mistaken legislation. The State did well to support the soldiers' orphan schools. They are not to be classed as pauper or indigent children, these orphans of the soldiers who saved this State and the nation; the nation was indebted to them; and it was to be considered as indebted to those men who died for their country. The orphan children had a lien on the State. They didn't come making their appeal as indigent or charity children, and when the State took hold of caring for them it was merely coming up to the line of its duty, and discharging a holy debt that it owed to the orphans. But it is a different matter when we come to consider this proposition before the Convention, proposing to take up the cause of charity children and place them on a par with soldiers' orphans. No one has a warmer sympathy for them than I, and I would be glad to see that it was feasible to carry this matter through, but I think it would be bad political economy. In the first place it would clash and conflict with the poor laws. What class of children would be eligible to these schools; soldiers' orphan children, the few that might remain, and then the children

of the poor. Not of the man who carries the hod or supports his family by other labor; he has never asked for any outside support and never intends to; his children would be excluded from these schools; the action of this resolution would be to jump right over the heads of the poor laboring men. The social condition may be represented by a ladder. On the top round sits the millionaire; he is there on account of his wealth. On the lower round is the daily laborer. His vote is as good as that of the millionaire and he is not ashamed of his condition in life. Can we take up the class of indigent, dependent and chargeable children and place them over the heads of his children, on an upper rung of that ladder? I hold that the most we can do as Directors of the Poor is to advance his children to the first step of the ladder. If they lived in India and belonged to the lowest class they could never rise above it; in this country they can climb to the top; but it must be by their own effort. We clear the way for them, but I think it would be bad political economy and a false step if we were to adopt this resolution and carry it out.

*Mr. Snyder* (Philadelphia): At our meeting at Gettysburg I presented a paper on this subject. This Convention at that time didn't see proper to take it up and allow any discussion upon it; but why should not these schools in view of the fact that the Legislature is about to abolish the soldiers' orphan schools, be used for the education of our poor children. Why should there be a class distinction upon any of them. I consider that the poor children are the wards of the State and should be educated by the State. There are a certain class of them that if controlled rightly become good citizens; but if controlled for the wrong they go down into the penitentiaries and prisons. If the State take charge of these schools why should there be any distinction of class among them? I see poor children go into our schools and become educated the same as any of them; I think we should do all in our power to get the State to take hold of these schools and maintain them for the poor children of the State. If any one will take the minutes of the meeting at Gettysburg they will see my position on this subject.

*Col. Gould* (Erie): I don't think we can intelligently act on this subject to-night. Who owns this present school property;

when does the last scholar go out, and who owns the buildings, and is there a fancy price put upon them? All those things—I think we better defer this until the next meeting, for the fuller facts, before we act upon it. I make that as a motion.

*Mr. Carr:* I want to say that the commission as a whole and the Commissioner of the Commonwealth, are heartily in favor of this matter. I would amend the motion of Col. Gould, that the matter be decided now.

The motion of Col. Gould is agreed to, and the matter is postponed until the next meeting of the Association.

Mr. Worst presented the report of the finance committee fixing an assessment of \$17.50 on each district, to cover the expenses, which was received.

On motion the Chair was authorized to appoint a committee on program for next year, and the following committee was appointed:

McGonnigle, Allegheny; Pierce, Lycoming; Reiser, Berks; Colburn, Somerset; Mrs. Chambers, Chester; Mrs. Alston, Erie.

*Mr. Brumbaugh (Blair):* I think it is now proper to invite the new officers into the chair. I move that Col. Gould, our new president, be conducted to the chair.

Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Brumbaugh were appointed a committee to conduct Col. Gould to the chair and who was introduced by Mr. Lawrence.

*Col. Gould:* I thank you most heartily for the honor conferred upon me. I don't take it so much as a personal honor to myself as I feel proud of the position in which you have placed me, because it confers an honor upon the Board that I represent and the city in which I live, and I will say to you that I shall be proud if I lay down the gavel as chairman, one year from now, with the Association in as good shape and growing as it has during the past year under the administration of the officers of the past year. I want to say that I desire the next convention not only to be a large one, but a thorough working convention. I want del-



legates to come with the matters fully digested. I want the ladies to come thoroughly posted on their subjects and I hope they will not only come but will meet by themselves and prepare the matter that they desire to submit to the convention and then come in and present it and ask our approval of it. I can see great progress on the part of the Children's Aid Society. They are doing a noble work and it shows they are not going to be antagonistic to other charitable institutions. I think this meeting will result in much good in this respect.

Mr. McGonnigle offered the following report of the Committee on Resolutions, which was adopted.

"Your Committee have had two resolutions before them with reference to the care of the insane. One of them provides for the reimbursement, by the State, to the districts that have provided for the care of their insane, and the other provided for the erection of hospitals, at the expense of the State, for the care and maintenance of the insane.

The Committee does not think it wise to make any suggestion as to which of these policies should be adopted by the State, but the State should lay down some definite policy with reference to the care of the insane, and have this carried out. If it is decided by the proper authorities that the insane are 'the wards of the State,' then sufficient hospital accommodations should be provided by the State for the care and treatment of all the insane, and the State should erect at once one or more hospitals for the care of the insane in the western and north-western portions of the State.

If, however, it is decided that all the insane are not to be maintained in hospitals provided by the State, then the State should, by legislation, provide that the poor districts in this State that care for their own insane in county or district asylums, should be reimbursed for the expense incurred on account of their maintenance in said asylums.

Your Committee would ask that this report be adopted as the sense of this Association, and that the proper State authorities be requested to as once decide upon either one of the above plans, and proceed to have the same carried out."

With reference to the preamble and resolution concerning the establishment of an additional institute for the care of feeble-minded children, we would respectfully report the following :

WHEREAS, experience has demonstrated that a very large majority of feeble-minded children are teachable, and that by proper course of training quite a considerable number of them, at reaching adult age, become able, under well selected training and surroundings, to care for and support themselves ; and that another large portion become useful



in various ways about the institutions, so as to largely support themselves, while others, although capable of a certain degree of improvement, by reason of deficient mental capacity, or physical infirmities, require constant care and custody throughout their lives ; and,

WHEREAS, there are 8,753 feeble-minded children in Pennsylvania, according to the census of 1890, of which number 1,281 are under the age of fifteen years ; and,

WHEREAS, it is now generally considered that the insane, blind, deaf and dumb, idiotic and feeble-minded should be largely, if not altogether the wards of the State, it is therefore the duty of the State to afford all these dependent and helpless classes the necessary hospital treatment, training and education that the State can afford ; and,

WHEREAS, the Institution for feeble-minded children at Elwyn is now greatly overcrowded, with accommodations for only a small proportion of this class, so that it becomes necessary to have more accommodations, and as the present institution is in the eastern part of the State, there should be one in the western portion of the State, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That we heartily concur in the recommendations and resolutions of the State Medical Society of Pennsylvania, and the Board of Public Charities of Pennsylvania, to establish an institution for feeble-minded children in Western Pennsylvania :

*Resolved*, That the committee on legislation be, and it is hereby authorized to call the attention of Governor Pattison to the necessity of establishing a Western Pennsylvania Institution for the training of feeble-minded children, and to request that he present the matter to the Legislature in his next annual message, urging upon the Legislature to authorize the appointment of a commission to select and procure a site suitably located for said institution, and to make an appropriation for the purchase of said site, and the erection of necessary buildings and the establishment of said institution, as in their judgment will be necessary to meet the requirements of the case.

*Resolved*, That said Institution should be established in Western Pennsylvania.

*Mr. McGonnigle*: Since we met last two of our oldest members have passed away, Hon. Lewis Pughe, of Scranton, and John J. Crout, of Germantown. Mr. Pughe was a member of this Association almost from the date of its organization. He was chairman of the Poor Law Commission, and has for years been very prominent in all work pertaining to the relief, care, and maintenance of the poor of this State. He was a quiet, thinking man, and one who in his own way has done a great deal of good. He was always willing to assist in any way possible in the work of the Association, and his judgment was remarkably good.

Mr. Crout was a member of the association for ten years. While not an active man, he was a very thoughtful man, and one who was very anxious to bring about any improvement in the methods of caring for and relieving the poor. For ten years he had been a regular attendant at our meetings, and was present at our meeting at Reading last year, although in very feeble health. I have been identified with the work of the Association from its earliest start, and in the death of these two old members, I feel that we have lost two valued friends and members, and I would ask that the following resolutions be adopted:

*Resolved*, That the Association of the Directors of the Poor, in Convention assembled, do hereby express our sympathy in the death of the Hon. Lewis Pughe, of Scranton, who was a member of the Association, and chairman of the commission appointed by Governor Beaver to revise and codify the poor laws of the State, and Mr. John J. Crout, of Germantown, who for many years was an honored member of our Association.

That we expressed our sincere sorrow to learn of the deaths of these two gentlemen, that we miss them from our midst, and feel the loss of their wise counsel, and able services.

*Mr. Snyder* : I was well acquainted with Mr. Crout. He was of a mild, quiet disposition and a man that cared for the poor, and his thoughts were always for them, and his suggestions were often of a valuable kind, and in all my intercourse with him I found him a most genial gentleman, a kind parent and kind to everyone. The Board at Germantown miss him keenly. He was one of their oldest members. We all feel his loss.

*Col. Gould* : I would request that all who favor this resolution would favor it by rising, out of a proper respect.

The resolution is agreed to.

Mr. Stolzer offers the following resolution :

*Resolved*, That the Committee on Legislation be requested to recommend to the next session of the Legislature of the State, the enactment of a law authorising and empowering directors or trustees of poor districts within the State to erect, under their supervision, any duly authorized new buildings, repairing existing ones, or remodeling the same, and repealing all general or special laws conflicting therewith.

*Col. Gould:* I am sorry that the gentleman didn't know that he was trying to pass the general law we have been talking about, by piecemeal. What shall we do with the resolution.

The motion is lost.

Mrs. Walton offered the following resolution concerning the work of the Children's Aid Society.

*Resolved,* That the Convention of the Association of the Directors of the Poor hereby recognize the Children's Aid Society as a medium through which much good is being accomplished, for permanent benefit in rescuing children from evil influences, and placing them in homes where they may be reared into useful men and women.

Mrs. Walton also offered the following resolution as expressing the sense of the Children's Aid Society in the matter of the erection of an additional training school for feeble-minded children, and asked that it be printed in the proceedings of this meeting, which was agreed to.

*Resolved,* That we, the "Children's Aid Society," hereby endorse the movement to establish a "Training School for Feeble-Minded Children in Western Pennsylvania," and most earnestly unite in praying the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Pennsylvania, to pass an Act of Assembly authorizing the appointment of a Commission to select a site and supervise the erection of said school.

Mrs. Walton also offered the following resolutions of thanks that were adopted by the representative of the Children's Aid Society and asked that they be read and printed in the proceedings, which was agreed to.

*Resolved,* That we hereby tender our sincere thanks to the officers and members of the Association of the Directors of the Poor for the kind and generous treatment extended, and the sharing of the time and programme of the Convention.

*Resolved,* That we herewith tender our generous thanks to the Local Committee of Arrangements for the kind and hospitable entertainment extended to us while sojourning in their beautiful city.

*The President:* The next address is a paper on "our Charitable Institutions," by Mr. Reiser.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN:—It was with a great deal of hesitation that I consented to say a few words upon the subject assigned me by the Committee on Programme. In the first place I did not have the



time to prepare, and in the second place, there are many others within the hearing of my voice, whose ripe experience and unquestioned ability would more particularly fit them to discuss this question.

The subject, "Our Charitable Institutions," is a very broad and comprehensive one, and in glancing over the various and numerous other addresses appearing on the programme, the most difficult question that presented itself to me, was, how to treat the matter under consideration, so that I might not interfere, or conflict too much with those who preceded me, and those who are to follow.

In the brief space of time allotted to me, it would be utterly impossible to go into detail, or begin to enumerate and discuss the merits or demerits of the large number of charitable institutions, public and private, of our great Commonwealth. No State in the Union exceeds us in numbers, or excels in point of equipment and excellent management.

Too much praise and credit cannot be given to the many private institutions scattered throughout the length and breadth of this great State, and although entirely supported by the charitably disposed people of the community, the good they do will never be fully appreciated. Homes for the widows and aged, the friendless and the orphans, the feeble-minded and insane, are lasting monuments of the goodwill and Christian fellowship of our American people.

But it is that other class of charitable institutions, known as public charities, which more particularly concern us, and in our subsequent remarks we shall confine ourselves more particularly to those. To provide and care for the poor, for those who through sickness and misfortune have become unable to support themselves, is a great and noble undertaking.

That our State and counties have been liberal in their charities to this class, the many large buildings provided for them, fully attest. Not only are the buildings large and commodious in the several counties which have the single almshouse system, but they are equipped in the most approved and modern fashion. As a rule, they contain all the latest improvements, and nearly all the comforts of a well-to-do, well-regulated home; many of them are heated by steam and lighted by electricity.

In many instances the buildings are "architectural beauties," and no money is spared to make all the surroundings, as well as the buildings themselves, attractive and homelike. The directors, superintendents, and other attendants are men of experience, and often professionals in their particular sphere. Indeed the good people generally,



men and women, never tire in their efforts to improve the condition and increase the comforts of this poor and unfortunate class of people.

All this is to be highly commended, and I would not say one word to detract from or discourage any one in the good work. I believe in it all, in so far especially as health and comfort goes; but the great question still is, what are our charitable institutions, which are increasing in number from year to year, doing to decrease pauperism?

Is it not a fact, that while we have made great strides in improved buildings, improved equipments, and improved methods of caring for the poor, as far as numbers are concerned, when compared with the population, we stand to day where we stood twenty five or fifty years ago.

This then presents another side of the question. If in all these years of care and attention to the poor, with ever increasing buildings, improved equipments and methods, we have failed to arrest this evil, which makes necessary this immense outlay of money, labor, etc., there must certainly be some defect or short coming in the present system.

In the first place, it seems to me, that we are too conservative in our treatment. A contagious and infectious disease requires a heroic remedy. It is not sufficient to build hospitals and almshouses to receive the poor, and poverty-stricken, but we must find some means to check the evil in its infancy. Let no one misunderstand me. I by no means desire to underrate the good work that has already been done, and it should continue with redoubled efforts; but it strikes me, that we are often too easy going in this matter. We receive and maintain people in our institutions who should not be admitted. People who are able-bodied, and could earn their own livelihood, as for example, the winter boarder, who during the summer, when there is work, tramps over the country, and returns every fall. In this way we put a premium upon laziness, and encourage others to do likewise.

Another evil which has crept into our institutions, is paid pauper labor. I do not believe that it is advisable or profitable for the managers or directors to employ inmates. If there are any persons in these institutions able to earn a salary and their board besides, they are out of place, and should be earning a living elsewhere. Those who cannot earn a living, but are still able to do some work, should be compelled to do light work for the privilege of a home. "Thou shalt earn thy bread by the sweat of thy brow," applies to this class as well as to any other. Work will discourage laziness, and reminds them that a home means something. It is all very well to be charitable, but we can also err on the side of charity.

Again, I believe that as a rule, the practice of giving out-door relief is pernicious. It encourages idleness, and instead of teaching people to depend on themselves, they will become careless and indifferent and finally find their way into our almshouses. But as this question of out-door relief constitutes a subsequent topic, I will not continue this line of thought.

Finally, I believe that we encourage pauperism to a greater or less extent, by the very extravagant homes which we erect for them. I fully realize that I am treading on dangerous ground, and I expect to provoke severe criticism, but I believe what I say, and therefore can't help it. I do not believe that the public are religiously or morally bound to provide extravagant homes with luxurious surroundings. How many of our horny-fisted sons of toil can only afford the humblest homes? You find none of your modern improvements there. No steam heat, no gas, no electricity; yet you tax these men to support the indolent, those who through their own excesses, find their way into our charitable institutions where they have many more comforts than the former ever enjoyed. Does this seem right? Is it a wonder that we often hear the expression, "well, if I can't get along, I will go to the poor house; it was not built for dogs."

I hope, however, that I may not be misunderstood. I believe that our charitable institutions should be comfortable, by all means, and so far as the deserving poor are concerned, nothing is too good for them. But I believe that we ought to discriminate between these and the undeserving, in the management of our almshouses, etc. And I am of the opinion that if our poor houses were supplied with workshops instead of smoking rooms, where the "winter or transient boarder" could be compelled to work, and earn his board, that we would take a long step forward in the direction of decreasing pauperism.

Mr. Linderman read the following paper on "The Duties and Responsibilities of the Guardians of the Poor."

### THE DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE GUARDIANS OF THE POOR.

I appreciate too highly the honor of being delegated to write upon this important theme, not to be deeply sensible of my inability to do it justice. However, if I may succeed in presenting one or two phases of the subject, as they appear to my own mind, so as to elicit honest discussion, and ultimately lead to a correction of a popular error, I shall be more than gratified.

I shall not attempt to treat of the duties of the Guardians of the Poor in detail; nor shall I pretend to develop a radically new system for the treatment of pauperism. So far as I can understand, that is a matter about which social philosophers and political economists have speculated and experimented, debated and disagreed, through all the centuries, from the bold and simple scheme of Lycurgus, the Spartan, down to the latest enterprises of General Booth, of England. The former neither "tried to make the poor rich, nor the rich poor, but he imposed upon both the same discipline, the same habits of life, the same fare, clothing, labors, privations, punishments and subordination." The individual existed for the State, and the weak was disciplined for the service of the State, and the deformed, male and female, were put to death. He leveled and compacted the social mass into one uniform whole of active, able-bodied men, and sound, healthy women. The latter proposes to create a distinct colony within the State, which shall "live, move and have its being wholly of the poor, by the poor, and for the poor."

The world has passed through many shades of opinion upon this subject. From one extreme to the opposite, some as false and detrimental to society, as others were cruel and fatal to the pauper. We have gone from pagan cruelty to modern religious sentimentalism. When church and State began to grow together, because the strong arm of one without the moral suasion of the other, was not able to control those dark and turbulent times, the care of the poor was relegated to the church. I find it recorded that the Roman code decreed that "it is better that vagabonds should be left to die of hunger, than that they should be supported in their begging." I am informed by a legal friend that this same code is still resorted to by jurists and sages in our own land, and in every country of Europe, for its maxims of wisdom and equity. When the experience and learning of a nation which excelled in the art of government were laid aside for a religious sentiment—a grand sentiment, it is true, when understood wisely and applied aright—the distribution of charities proceeded without proper regard to the deserts of the needy—I refer to the indiscriminate practice of Christian benevolence. "Go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven." "When thou makest a feast, call not thy friends, nor thy brethren, neither thy kinsmen nor thy rich neighbors, but call the poor, the maimed, the blind." This is all well enough within the church, when applied to the pious poor, who are known to the members. But it became the practice of the church to work up the practice of almsgiving at large as means of grace, on the principle "that it is



more blessed to give than to receive." Man are taught to practice charity, in order to promote their own piety, and secure the favor of heaven, not to reclaim the indolent and vicious. Society was to be blessed from above, not to be renovated and restored from beneath. Religious houses were established for the reception and distribution of alms. Alms-giving and begging were exalted into a sacrament. The thing became a superstition. At every cross-roads and drinking fount were beggars and idle wretches lounging under crucifixes and pronouncing benedictions in the name of the Holy Virgin and the Saints upon their patrons and would-be benefactors. Begging became the trade of thousands. The "tramp" nuisance was a more serious burden and menace to society than it has ever been in our day.

But the subject is too vast; I cannot pursue it further. Let it suffice to note that a reliable church historian says, "these alms made and sustained the poor, so that begging became a trade, to which an apprenticeship was served; and a secular history records that "the blind eleemosynary spirit of the church was the cause, not the cure, of begging and wretchedness."

I assert that it is a result of this maudlin sentiment, this superstitious religiousness, lingering in the popular heart which unconsciously warps the public mind. Compassion for the poor is still a popular virtue. I do not denounce the sentiment; in itself it is laudable, when it goes out to proper and deserving objects; but even amongst good people it is blind, foolish, indiscriminating—it is too often mere sentiment, without sense; not unfrequently good-goody clap-trap and cant. It is often arrayed against the work which has been instituted by public authority not only for the relief, but for the improvement of the pauper class. The means devised by men experienced in the administration of public charities are hindered and hampered by this foolish and false sentimentalism.

The pauper class is separable into two groups. The first, (because it is in the great majority,) the undeserving poor; second, (a slender minority,) the deserving poor. I am satisfied that all those present who are qualified to speak, will agree to this classification. I am aware that the popular opinion does not accord with this view; it regards all poor "deserving poor." It is desirable to have this opinion corrected, and it is really necessary to an easy and happy solution of the perplexing problem, "the care and disposition of the poor." It would seem that the guardians of the poor are largely responsible for this false impression, in not taking pains to correct it. I believe that many guardians even share in the notion that the poor are all to be regarded with compassion, and treated with tenderness, because they



have not the time or the inclination to obtain accurate, personal information of their previous history and true character. I am satisfied that if they would spend sufficient time at the almshouses observing the conversation, the actions, and the general conduct of the inmates, both male and female, they would no longer voice the prevailing sentiment that these people are "God's deserving poor." I do not say that there are no deserving poor, but I do assert, after more than five years' service as the Superintendent of the Pittsburgh City Farm, that the worthy poor in our almshouses is a scanty minority. I make the assertion without fear of successful contradiction, that our paupers, in the main, are indolent, deceitful, vicious, dissipated and ungrateful. I am aware that this statement will sound harsh to those who accept without question, and cherish without reflection, those tender and would-be Christian sentiments. Realizing that these good people are perfectly honest and sincere, I desire to proclaim the truth, that they may be forestalled against further deception. The public in general is too willing to accept for true any statement or newspaper communication charging the superintendent, the guardians, and the officers, with harsh and cruel treatment of the almshouse inmates. Admitting that there have been a few instances where investigation has shown the management of charitable institutions to have been culpable, (and this is greatly to be deplored), it is still true that our charitable boards and officers are far "more sinned against than sinning." Granting these exceptional cases of a betrayal of trust, it is not more than may be charged against men in other vocations, even in the professions. Where such breaches of duty occur, the guilty parties are thoroughly deserving of public censure and legal punishment. As a rule, the guardians and superintendents are honorable men, and should be so regarded, else it is a sad commentary on the choice of officers by the popular voice. But it seems that though they are honest, the moment they become public servants they are regarded with suspicion, and the public is prone to believe the hasty and malicious complaints of disorderly and discharged inmates. The truth of this is evinced by the avidity with which their sensational press communications are devoured.

The result is, that our public institutions are brought into disrepute and disrespect. Thereby a great wrong is done to the worthy and unfortunate poor, who are discouraged from seeking deserved relief; and a great injury is wrought to the public, because the dissolute and indolent are encouraged to depend upon the almshouse for temporary relief in emergencies only, and to invent false pretexts to forsake its care and escape its discipline, and get back into the ranks of beggars,

tramps, imposters and dead-beats, and prey upon the sympathy and blind benevolence of honest and industrious people. These homes are becoming simply transient asylums and commissaries for the vile and besotted vagabonds and leeches, in cold weather, or in seasons of ill health and wasted energies. They are resorted to by impecunious drunkards, both male and female, when they want to recover from the effects of a long spree; who practice all sorts of frauds upon the management of the institution while there, and then invent some devilish scandal against its discipline when they leave. They are thus losing the character of Homes for the decent and deserving poor,—(God's poor, if you please,)—who abhor and shun them as they do the pestilence, and who are thus constrained to adopt some shift for extorting a living from society. The tendency of this is to make the latter class like the former.

The guardians of the poor are the guardians of the good name and fame of our eleemosynary institutions, and upon them rests the responsibility of making this department of government respectable and successful. I humbly suggest to them that here is a phase of their duty which will bear more particular attention and study. They have been chosen to their office for their intelligence, their business capacity, and their high character. They are, or ought to be, competent to inform the public mind and educate public opinion in these matters. They should be the champions and protectors of the management of these homes. They should go before the public to refute these groundless complaints and slanders. They can speak "as one having authority," and the people will hear and heed what they have to say. False rumors will not have the eager ear of a credulous public, and the business of manufacturing scandalous sensations for the newspapers will decline. I beg leave to raise the question, whether they ought not to institute proceedings for criminal libel against the authors and publishers of these scandals, where they are plainly malicious, and are printed without examination into their foundation and source. The right of free speech is not a license to accuse even a public officer without cause, nor is the liberty of the press a privilege to publish such accusations, except from good motives and upon reasonable grounds. Suppose an imbecile pauper or a reckless vagabond were to write, and a newspaper were to publish a communication reflecting on the honesty or financial standing of one of our banks; as, for example, that he had been cheated at the bank, or that it was not paying its depositors in full, how long would it be until the writer and publisher would be rubbing noses between prison bars? Should the guardians of the poor be less jealous of the good name of our almshouses, than

bank directors are of the credit of the bank and the reputation of its officers? The former is far more important to the worthy poor and the tax-paying public.

Mrs. Frances Swan, of Scranton, read the following paper on "An Ideal Almshouse."

### AN IDEAL ALMSHOUSE.

When our President informed me of the fact of my having been assigned a place upon the programme for this Convention, I appreciated the honor and courtesy shown, and thought it would not be a difficult matter to present, what to me would seem an ideal almshouse; but upon deliberation, I have realized that it was a presumptuous thing for me to do, for many of the directors before me, have had years of experience and observation, and would have been much better fitted for the task in hand. As the same poor laws do not govern every district throughout the State alike, what would be found necessary to bring about the successful conduct of an almshouse in one county might not be practical in an adjoining county, and as the requirements of an almshouse in a city of the first class are very different from those of one of the second-class, with the same differences existing between cities of the second-class and country districts; no one ideal could possibly apply to all. So if you will kindly place upon your noses a pair of feminine eye-glasses, we will endeavor to see in what way our ideas differ as we try to locate, and place in running order an ideal almshouse in a city of the second-class.

In deciding upon the location, I should prefer some point that would be easy of access by rail, about ten miles outside the city limits. I would have it on elevated ground, to ensure good drainage, and with an abundant natural water supply. If this last cannot be secured, an artesian well, sunk to depth sufficient to prevent contamination of any description affords the next best substitute. A goodly acreage is also necessary, sufficient to afford work to all capable inmates, so that the farm shall be as productive, and the institution as nearly self-sustaining as possible. The last requirement will make possible a better diet than is customarily found in almshouses; more milk and vegetables, and less meat. I would locate the buildings so as to give to the many shut-in ones the benefit of the most beautiful view that nature affords, where the eye can rest upon the surrounding hills and valleys, as they robe themselves in their ever changing colors, and where sunrise and sunset will add their effulgent beauty to the scene. The grounds surrounding the buildings should be laid out in beautiful lawns, with some shade trees, and a tasty display of



flowers, in designs where they will not monopolize the lawn. An effective mode is to edge the walks with the hardiest blossoming plants, while a few ampilopsis or ivy vines, add very much to the appearance of the buildings, if not permitted to cover, too completely, the surface. I would have all buildings constructed of brick; the administration building forming the center of the group. In this should be offices for the directors, superintendent, attending physician and matron. A pharmacy and sewing room, with supply room adjoining, together with parlor, reception room, and bedrooms for all employes, and separate kitchens and dining rooms for superintendent and servants, should also be in this building.

All the buildings should be large, well-built, well lighted, and well furnished. These should be provided throughout with electrical appliances, and steam or hot water, from a boiler, located in a separate building. The capacity of this boiler should be sufficient to provide steam for all kitchen uses, as well as for thorough ventilating and heating purposes. There should be an ample supply of hot water for bath purposes.

I would have all the buildings finished in light colored hard woods, with hard surface walls. These walls should always be painted in light tints, and never papered. Offices and halls should be wainscoted. All bath rooms and water closets should be entirely separated from the wards, and should have a white tile wainscoting, with floors of the same, so laid that they will permit frequent flushing. Bath tubs and closet bowls should be porcelain lined; the flushing to be automatic, and all plumbing to be according to best approved sanitary methods. On either side of the administration building, but fifty feet in the rear, I would locate the male and female out-wards, for the reception of the aged and infirm poor. These out-wards should not be more than two-stories high, built T shape, with halls twenty (20) feet wide, to be used as sitting rooms during the day. The halls should be furnished with two single strips of rag carpet, rocking chairs, and small stands; also, a few pictures on the walls, and book-cases built in the walls for the library, which should be found in every institution. Wide stair-cases, fire hose and escapes should be easy of access. There should be clothes rooms on each floor, where all clothing belonging to the inmates should be kept. The female out-ward should be under the management of the matron, under the direction of the superintendent, who should have to assist her a competent nurse and seamstress, whose duty would be to see that the matron's orders are carried out, and that all who are physically able shall assist in the work for which they are best fitted.



On the south side of the out-wards there should be built a wide-covered piazza, where the crippled, blind and invalid inmates could sit or walk on pleasant days. The basements of the out-wards could be finished off into cellars and work-rooms, where the women could have rooms for dress-making, tailoring, basket and mat work. The male out-wards should be under the supervision of the superintendent, and the men should be occupied at carpenter work, tinning and shoemaking, when not needed in the general work of the farm. The bedrooms upon either side of the halls should be ten by fifteen feet, (10x15), and contain two single beds in each, with woven wire mattresses, plenty of clean bedding, shades at the windows, chairs, stands, and a strip of rag carpet in each room.

I would locate an associated dining-room in the rear of the administration building, a small court intervening, to be connected to the out-wards by a covered passage-way, well lighted. For a model plan I would refer you to the new dining-hall just completed for the insane at Blockley Almshouse, Philadelphia. It is the acme of perfection, with its wonderful lighting, heating and ventilating powers. The dining-room should be large enough so that separate tables could be used for the inmates, as they are classified; for in no place is their greater need of classification than in the dining-room. Adjoining this room, should be a servery, fitted with steam heated tables, closets and urns. In the kitchen should be the latest approved ranges, caldrons for soups, vegetables, tea and coffee; steam roasting ovens and broilers, tables, refrigerator sinks, etc., with a good supply of kitchen ware and labor saving utensils. A dumb waiter should communicate with the second floor. I would have a separate building for the laundry, fitted with the most approved machinery for washing, wringing, drying and ironing, with well-drained floors, and a sterilizing room where all infected clothing can be washed without coming in contact with the other clothing. The bakery should have a rotary oven, troughs, tables, boxes, and good tools, with a first-class baker in charge. The cold cellar should be divided into compartments for ice, milk and meat. It should be partitioned with thick walls, and have no connecting doors. In no other way can milk and butter remain untainted. Vegetable should be kept in barn bins, and never in house cellars of an institution. A suitable place should be provided for the laying-out of the dead until such time as they can be removed. I would like a comfortable chapel, where the Bread of Life could be broken to hungry, tired hearts, and where all classes could be led to know Him better, "who Himself bore our sorrows, and was acquainted with grief." I would favor a separate building for all who suffer

from infectious or contagious diseases. I believe heartily in classification, and think it is very essential that there should be a division of wards, so that all may be placed under the most favorable conditions.

I feel that this cannot be too strongly emphasized. When I asked one of the delegates to this Convention for his views upon this subject, he replied, "If I were intending to write a paper on the subject of an ideal farm, I would provide a stable for horses, another for cows, pens for swine, and coops for chickens. A farmer would not put his swine in a cow stable, or his cows in pens; he would not feed his horses on swill, nor swine on hay; swine would not enjoy having their meals served in a dining-room, with plates, knives and forks, nor would horses thrive well in pens eating out of a trough. Chickens would rather roost on a pole than sleep on a bed or mattress." If we can thus give special care to the needs and comforts of dumb animals, should we not feel a much deeper interest in those to whom we bear so much closer relationship?

Now that we have located the buildings, who shall we find that can successfully manage such an institution, and please all who are interested? Competent persons to fill such positions are scarce, and great discretion should be used in selecting a superintendent. In the first place, he should not occupy the position as a reward for political service, for under those circumstances, he will meet with much partisan abuse and criticism, no matter how pure may be his motives, or how conscientiously or satisfactorily he may perform his duty. He should be a man of keen perception, tact and common sense, holding a firm hand in the administration of affairs, as he shall enforce the rules of the institution. He should employ only suitable officers and servants, and require all who are physically able to do the work best fitted to their condition, and cheer and encourage those whom poverty has, through sickness, misfortune, or vice, brought to the almshouse door. He should never forget the bitter humiliation that the really worthy poor suffer, aside from their physical pain, in becoming paupers.

The superintendent should be thoroughly conversant with farming, so that the farm shall yield its very best productions in grain, fruits, and vegetables, and that he may display a just pride in his cattle, poultry, etc. The matron's position entitles her to our most hearty sympathy and encouragement, for where can one find such discord, disagreement, misunderstanding, strife, dispute, squabbles, wrangling, grumbling, fault-finding and jealousies as within the doors of an almshouse. Her principle virtues should be firmness, forbearance, tact and sympathy, with executive ability that shall be manifested in

the perfect control she shall have over all inmates and servants, and in her housewifely skill as displayed throughout the entire institution.

I have said nothing about a building for the children that we sometimes find in our almshouses, for the reason that I think we ought never to find any there over two years of age. There is no question that has such claims upon us as how to save the unfortunate children of pauper parentage. The child is the future nation in embryo. How can we best root out the evil that is in the human heart, and cultivate only the good, is the all important question. It can only be done by proper training in education, custom, example, and personal effort. This alone can bring out the best powers of heart and mind, and while we have very little hope of reclaiming the pauper parents, we can remove the children from their debasing influences, and place them where they will be trained to be self-supporting, and grow up to become industrious and worthy citizens. I firmly believe that we serve the best interest of the child and tax-payer, when we place the children of shiftless, immoral parents, by the plan of adoption, into private homes. Experience has proven that by keeping children too long in charitable institutions, they are unfitted for home-life, and when placed in homes seldom gives satisfaction.

When planning the different wards, I said nothing about the sick-rooms, which I would locate at either end of the arm of the out-wards, thereby gaining quiet and better ventilation. Both these and the maternity room should be large and cheerful. They should be furnished with comfortable beds, plenty of clean bedding, rocking chairs, tables always supplied with good reading matter, and, if possible, a few bright blossoms on the tables, to shed their fragrance and beauty into the hearts and lives of those, who in the time of their adversity and deep distress, find their only welcome from the door of the almshouse. It is a lamentable fact, that many a true, worthy mother, has through sudden calamity or death been obliged to seek such a refuge. To all such the comforts of a home and tenderest care should be given, while to the rapidly increasing number of fallen women, who are the victims of their own weakness or vice, we would not refuse the same tender ministries.

But if I may be allowed to step aside from my subject right here, I would emphasize a note of warning in regard to this class. I believe with Mrs. C. R. Stowell, of New York, that until we shall see every unfortunate woman who gives birth to her second illegitimate child safely housed in a reformatory, for a long period of time, where they will be subject to such a physical, moral, and intellectual training, as will recreate them, and from which they shall never be granted



their liberty until they are cured, soul and body, that we shall not be free from the fearful responsibility that rests upon us as a Christian nation. There is no escape from temptation, and no hope for these women except through such measures. It is the maximum of human kindness to thus protect them, and the broadest charity in which the State or philanthropist can interest themselves. We have prisons and reformatories for the criminals, hospitals for the insane, contagious diseased and lepers. How dare we leave to their own destruction the morally diseased? We have a higher duty to perform than simply the distributing of alms. Are we closing our eyes to the fact, that the most dangerous cause of the increase of pauperism, crime and insanity, is the unrestrained liberty granted to this class of women and vagrant men?

Are we not in a measure responsible for the reproduction of their kind? The community should protest against the support of the increase of this class. Until they are cared for, the children of the pauper class placed in good homes, and the flood-gates of outside relief closed, we shall not see the pauper removed from our midst. Every almshouse should have a workhouse connected with it, so that the lazy vagrant and drunkard who again and again takes up his abode with us, should be compelled to be self-supporting while with us. I protest against the present system of law which permits him to make a beast of himself, paupers of his wife and children, and when he sinks so low that even the jail door is closed against him, he can then enter the almshouse, where he finds a comfortable room, a turkish bath, a good bed, and three meals a day awaiting him, with tobacco and stimulants provided until he has recovered from his latest debauch. After donning a new suit, he is ready for what—not to work, that he can repay the district in any way, but to leave the institution at his own sweet will, to plunge into deeper excesses, and periodically be returned to us. Do we lend a helping hand to him, or protect society against him by so doing? When he can be impressed with the fact that he is worse than a criminal, and deserves no mercy, and that the world owes no man a living, then, and not until then, can we hope for his reform.

Give us legislation so that judge or alderman can commit him to the workhouse for an indefinite period, and he will then be conspicuous for his absence from our institutions.

I hope that these imaginations of an ideal almshouse may be found to be practical, and that we may, in our generation, see the evils spoken of remedied, and the ideal becomes a reality.



*The President:* There are several other papers on the programme, but as the hour is late, it has been suggested that they be passed over for the present, and the programme having been completed, with these exceptions, it will be in order now to proceed to closing exercises.

Mr. Snyder offered the following :

*Resolved,* That the thanks of this Association be and are hereby tendered to President Colborn, for his services during the past year as Chairman, and for the work he has done in arranging this successful meeting, and presiding during its deliberations ;

That the thanks of the Association be and are hereby tendered to the Directors of the Poor, of Erie, and their officers, for their very kind and courteous treatment, and any attentions paid to us during our sessions here ;

That the thanks of this Association be and are hereby extended to the Mayor and citizens of Erie, who in connection with the Directors of the Poor, have made our visit in this city very pleasant and most enjoyable ;

That we thank the Commissioners of Erie County for the use of the Court House, for the purposes of our meetings.

The resolution was agreed to.

*The President:* As already announced, the citizens of Erie have arranged for a public reception at the Reed House, for the members of this Association, this evening. This hour has arrived, and a motion to adjourn would now be in order, so that we can proceed to attend the reception.

This was agreed to, and the Convention adjourned to meet at Williamsport, on the second Tuesday of October, 1893.

The majority of the members of the Association proceeded to the Reed House, where a reception was extended to the Association by the citizens of Erie, and several hours were spent in intercourse, music, etc., during which time refreshments were served.

On Thursday morning a majority of the members of the Association visited Niagara Falls, on an excursion arranged for by the Directors of the Poor, of Erie, and which had been announced during the sessions.

Upon motion, the Convention was here adjourned, to meet at Williamsport, on the second Tuesday of October, 1893.

## Directory of Children's Aid Societies.

### OBJECTS BRIEFLY STATED.

- I. The boarding of dependent children in separate family homes.
- II. The removal of children from the almshouses of the State of Pennsylvania.
- III. The preservation of the tie between mother and child, and the enforcing of the responsibility of motherhood by placing mothers at service with their children.
- IV. The training in private families of juvenile delinquents of tender years, who would otherwise be committed to penal institutions.

In nearly all the counties of Pennsylvania the Children's Aid Society is the official agent of the Directors of the Poor.

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Mrs. H. C. Campbell, President; Mrs. H. L. Mason, Secretary; Mrs. Margaret McC. Price, Treasurer.

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Mrs. A. Alston, Chairman; Mrs. Sue Williams, Indiana County; Mrs. B. K. Richards, Venango county; Mrs. Archie Alston, Allegheny county; Mrs. B. H. Frampton, Clarion county; Mrs. H. C. Campbell, Allegheny county; Mrs. Margaret McC. Price, Allegheny county; Mrs. Harriet G. Benton, Crawford county; Mrs. Rosanna Brown, Erie county; Miss Madeline LeMoyne, Washington county; Mrs. Parker Blood, Jefferson county; Mrs. Harriet Sankey, Lawrence county; Mrs. George Arnold, Clarion county; Mrs. A. H. Wallace, Allegheny county; Mrs. J. R. Darragh, Allegheny county; Mrs. Alice Buffington, Armstrong county; Mrs. A. Fitch, Erie county; Mrs. Lizzie Lamb, Cameron county; Mrs. Elvira Irwin, Irwin; Mrs. H. L. Mason, Allegheny county.

Mrs. M. P. Sampson, Actuary; Mr. D. M. Alston, Attorney. Office: Dispensary Building, Pittsburg, Pa.

##### ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

W. B. Rodgers, Esq., Allegheny; H. L. Mason, Esq., Pittsburgh; George F. Arnold, Clarion; H. K. Beatty, M. D., Allegheny; Judge Silas Clarke, Indiana; Rev. P. C. Prugh, Butler; Rev. H. L. Mayers, Kittanning.

#### COUNTY COMMITTEES, AUXILIARY TO THE CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA.

*Allegheny County.*—Mrs. N. Shafer, President, Bellevue, Pa.; Mrs. W. J. Prentice, Secretary, 1009 Liberty Street, Pittsburgh, Pa.; Mrs. James Hamilton, Treasurer, Bellevue, Pa.

*Armstrong County.*—Mrs. Joseph Buffington, President, Kittanning, Pa.; Mrs. David McCaw, Secretary, Kittanning, Pa.; Miss M. J. Robinson, Treasurer, Kittanning, Pa.

*Clarion County.*—Mrs. George F. Arnold, President, Clarion, Pa.; Mrs. B. H. Frampton, Secretary, Clarion, Pa.; Mrs. W. A. Hindman, Treasurer, Clarion, Pa.

*Clearfield County.*—Mrs. M. M. Betts, President, Clearfield, Pa.; Mrs. M. L. McQuown, Secretary, Clearfield, Pa.; Mrs. J. M. Weigley, Treasurer, Clearfield, Pa.

*Crawford County.*—Mrs. Roger Sherman, Titusville, Pa.; Mrs. George W. Barr, Secretary, Titusville, Pa.; Mrs. — Frappert, Treasurer, Titusville, Pa.

*Elk County.*—Mrs. J. T. Waid, President, Ridgway, Pa.; Mrs. Martha Richards, Secretary, Ridgway, Pa.; Mrs. W. L. Williams, Treasurer, Ridgway, Pa.

*Fayette County.*—Miss Francis Howell, President, Uniontown, Pa.; Mrs. Mary E. Bowie, Secretary, Uniontown, Pa.; Mrs. Nettie W. Dawson, Treasurer, Uniontown, Pa.

*Beaver County.*—Mrs. J. L. Anderson, President, 262 Allegheny Avenue, Allegheny, Pa.; Mrs. S. H. Darragh, Secretary, Beaver, Pa.; Mrs. H. A. Ackley, Treasurer, Beaver, Pa.

*Butler County.*—Mrs. J. L. Purvis, President, Butler, Pa.; Mrs. Flora B. Christie, Secretary, Butler, Pa.; Miss Belle Purvis, Treasurer, Butler, Pa.

*Cameron County.*—Mrs. Lizzie Lamb, President, Emporium, Pa.; Mrs. W. D. Sampson, Secretary, Emporium, Pa.; Mrs. J. D. Logan, Treasurer, Emporium, Pa.

*Forrest County.*—Mrs. Belle L. Hunt, President, Merrionville, Pa.; Mrs. Clara B. Towler, Secretary, Merrionville, Pa.

*Fulton County.*—Mrs. Hunter Patterson, President, Webster's Mills, Penna.

*Greene County.*—Mrs. Elizabeth Crawford, President, Waynesburg, Pa.; Mrs. Theodosia W. Knox, Secretary, Waynesburg, Pa.; Mrs. M. E. Hunnell, Treasurer, Waynesburg, Pa.

*Indiana County.*—Mrs. M. A. McLaine, President, Indiana, Pa.; Mrs. Thomas St. Clair, Secretary, Indiana, Pa.; Mrs. Sue Williard, Treasurer, Indiana, Pa.

*Jefferson County.*—Mrs. W. G. Bishop, President, Brookville, Pa.; Mrs. Parker Blood, Secretary, Brookville, Pa.; Mrs. E. B. Henderson, Treasurer, Brookville, Pa.

*Lawrence County.*—Mrs. Harriet Sankey, President, New Castle, Pa.; Mrs. R. C. Wallace, Secretary, New Castle, Pa.; Mrs. G. W. Johnston, Treasurer, New Castle, Pa.

*Mercer County.*—Mrs. A. Bard, President, Mercer, Pa.; Miss Martha McBryde, Secretary, Mercer, Pa.; Miss L. A. McElhenny, Treasurer, Mercer, Pa.

*Somerset County.*—Mrs. M. O. Korser, President, Somerset, Pa.; Mrs. J. G. Ogle, Secretary, Somerset, Pa.; Mrs. Barton Linton, Treasurer, Somerset, Pa.

*Venango County.*—Mrs. M. M. Fisher, President, Oil City, Pa.; Mrs. B. K. Richards, Secretary, South Oil City, Pa.; Mrs. Mary J. Strayer, Treasurer, Oil City, Pa.

*Warren County.*—Mrs. W. A. Hall, President, Warren, Pa.; Mrs. J. A. Best, Secretary, Warren, Pa.; Mrs. Kate Teese, Treasurer, Warren, Penna.

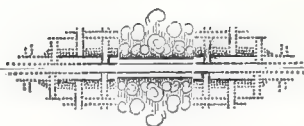
*Washington County.*—Mrs. W. F. Hamilton, President, Washington, Pa. ; Miss Madeline LeMoyne, Secretary, Washington, Pa. ; Mrs. Joshua Wright, Treasurer, Washington, Pa.

COMMITTEES.

*IRWIN, Westmoreland County.*—Mrs. E. T. Marchand, President, Irwin, Pa. ; Miss Agnes Wolf, Secretary, Irwin, Pa. ; Mrs. A. Frank, Treasurer, Irwin, Pa.

*JOHNSTOWN, Cambria County.*—Mrs. J. C. Davies, President, Johnstown, Pa. ; Mrs. Mary Storey, Treasurer, Johnstown, Pa.

*ERIE, Erie County, Co-operative Committee.*—Mrs. Rosanna Brown, President, Erie, Pa. ; Mrs. M. A. Fitch, Secretary and Treasurer, P. O. box 453, Erie, Pa.



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## APPENDIX.

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### CONSTITUTION.

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ARTICLE 1. This organization shall be known as the "Association of the Directors of the Poor of the State of Pennsylvania."

ART. 2. The members of this organization shall consist of the Directors, Guardians and Overseers of the Poor of the several Poor Districts of the State, and all who have at any time served as such ; the officers of all Almshouses in the State ; the members and officers of the Board of Public Charities ; Superintendents and Managers of the several Insane Hospitals and the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble-Minded Children ; the officers or delegates of all Reformatory, Charitable and Benevolent Institutions or Associations.

ART. 3. The object of the Association shall be that of investigating and considering all questions concerning pauperism and dependency, to devise means for the prevention of the same, to suggest legislation, to establish a personal acquaintance between the Directors of the Poor of the several Districts, and so far as possible have a comparison of their different systems of management.

ART. 4. Its officers shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, one Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected annually, and hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and have signified their acceptance of the office.

ART. 5. Their several duties shall be such as usually pertain to those official positions, and they shall be governed by such parliamentary rules as are usually recognized.

ART. 6. The Association shall hold annual meetings at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the members at a regular meeting.

ART. 7. The President, the Vice-Presidents and Secretaries shall constitute a Permanent Executive Committee to arrange business and make all the arrangements necessary for each succeeding meeting.

ART. 8. The Treasurer shall pay out of the funds of the Association only on the order of the President, countersigned by one of the Secretaries.

ART. 9. The Treasurer shall submit his account at each meeting, which shall be audited by a committee appointed for the purpose.

ART. 10. The expenses necessary for the holding of each meeting shall be assessed on each Poor District represented, which shall be paid to the Treasurer.

ART. 11. Any person interested in the work of the Association will be admitted as an honorary member by a vote of the active majority present.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting, by a majority vote of the members present.†



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## ALMSHOUSE DIRECTORY.

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The State of Pennsylvania is divided into sixty-seven counties. In eighteen counties there is neither a county, district or local almshouse, viz :

Butler, Cameron, Center, Clarion, Clearfield, Elk, Forest, Fulton, Indiana, Jefferson, Juniata, Monroe, Pike, Potter, Snyder, Sullivan, Union and Wyoming. In these counties the poor are supported by what is known as the "township," or overseer system, and the poor in these counties are provided for by what is known as the "boarding-out" system, on such terms as are named in proposals submitted to the overseers, who generally accept those making the *lowest* bid.

Thirty-four counties have each a county almshouse for the care of the poor of the entire county : Adams, Beaver, Bedford, Berks, Bradford, Bucks, Blair, Cambria, Chester, Crawford, Cumberland, Dauphin, Delaware, Erie, Fayette, Franklin, Greene, Huntingdon, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Mercer, Mifflin, Montgomery, Northumberland, Perry, Schuylkill, Somerset, Tioga, Venango, Warren, Washington, Westmoreland and York.

Eight counties have a district or local poorhouse for the poor of the city, borough or township, and they are : Armstrong, Carbon, Clinton, Luzerne, Lawrence, Lycoming, McKean and Wayne.

Montour and Northumberland have each two local or district poorhouses ; Allegheny and Columbia have three district poorhouses ; Philadelphia and Susquehanna have four ; and Lackawanna has five district poorhouses.

The following is a Directory of the county and district almshouses in the State, is printed here as a matter of information, and for the assistance of the poor authorities of the State.

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### ADAMS COUNTY.

*Directors*—James B. Myers, Gettysburg ; John A. Oiler, Hampton ; Joseph Sheely, Redland.

*Officers*—Harry C. Picking, Treasurer, Gettysburg ; Peter C. Stock, Clerk, Gettysburg ; Elias Fissel, Steward, Gettysburg ; W. H. O'Neal, M. D., Medical Attendant, Gettysburg ; Mrs. Elias Fissel, Matron, Gettysburg ; Wm. Arch McClean, Attorney, Gettysburg.

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### ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

*Directors*—R. C. Elliott, Chief of Department of Charities, 177 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh ; George Hoffman, Examiner, 177 Fourth Avenue, Pittsburgh.

*Officers*—George Linderman, Superintendent, Homestead ; C. W. Wilkin, Resident Physician, Homestead ; J. P. Blackburn, Assistant Physician, Homestead.

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

*Directors*—Barton Grubbs, Chief, City Hall, Allegheny ; James F. Bailey, Clerk, City Hall, Allegheny ; Wm. Eichenlaub, Inspector, City Hall, Allegheny ; David M. Morrison, Inspector, City Hall, Allegheny.

*Officers*—Wm. P. Hunker, Superintendent of Home, Claremont, Hoboken P. O. ; W. N. Marshall, Resident Physician, Claremont, Hoboken P. O.

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ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

*Directors*—W. H. Guy, President, Coraopolis ; Frank Patterson, Secretary, McKeesport ; Joseph T. Richey, Emsworth.

*Officers*—W. J. Glenn, Superintendent, Woodville ; L. V. Grove, Physician, Woodville ; Mrs. M. E. Glenn, Matron, Woodville ; J. F. Robb, Solicitor, Pittsburgh ; J. L. Srodes, Physician, Wilkinsburg.

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ARMSTRONG COUNTY.

*Directors*—F. M. King and Joseph Cureen, Overseers, Kittanning.

*Elected Officers*—F. M. King, Kittanning ; Joseph Cureen, Kittanning. *Appointed*—G. T. Crawford, Clerk, Kittanning ; R. A. McCullough, Attorney, Kittanning ; S. S. Jessup, Physician, Kittanning.

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BEAVER COUNTY.

*Directors*—Col. R. Walton, Industry ; John C. Christy, Holt ; Isaac Minor, Vanport.

*Officers*—George W. Engle, Steward, Bellowsville ; Mrs. George W. Engle, Matron ; J. Sharp Wilson, Attorney, Beaver ; G. A. Scroggs, M. D., Physician, Beaver ; J. Sharp Wilson, Treasurer.

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BEDFORD COUNTY.

*Directors*—George H. Ickes, Moury's Mills ; George Kerr, Mann's Choice ; A. B. Biddle, Charlesville.

*Officers*—J. S. Barefoot, Steward, Bedford ; John A. Clark, M. D., Physician, Bedford ; E. R. Horne, Treasurer, Bedford ; Thomas Armstrong, Attorney and Clerk, Bedford.

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BERKS COUNTY.

*Directors*—Fred. Roland, Reading ; Tilgham De Long, Topton ; Dr. Wm. Seitzinger, Wernersville.

*Officers*—John W. Gilbert, Steward, and wife, Reading ; Adam B. Rieser, Solicitor, and wife, Reading.

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BLAIR COUNTY.

*Directors*—John Loudon, Altoona ; John A. Crawford, Arch Spring ; Alexander J. McKee, Hollidaysburg.

*Officers*—Philip Young, Steward, Hollidaysburg ; Mrs. Keturah Young, Matron, Hollidaysburg ; D. S. Brumbaugh, Attorney and Clerk, Roaring Spring ; Dr. H. H. Brotherlin, Physician, Hollidaysburg.

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#### BRADFORD COUNTY.

*Directors*—S. N. Snidley, Canton ; P. F. Squires, Balibay ; N. W. McCramy, Towanda.

*Officers*—Ed. Putman, Superintendent, Burlington ; C. H. Buttles, Superintendent of Insane, Burlington ; C. H. Blactnull, Physician, Granville.

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#### BUCKS COUNTY.

*Directors*—John Johnson, Hulmeville ; Reuben Steever, Bedminster ; Benjamin Schuyler, New Britain.

*Officers*—John Price, Steward, Doylestown ; F. Swartzlander, Physician, Doylestown ; George Ross, Attorney, Doylestown ; Elwood Mathews, Clerk, New Britain.

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#### CAMBRIA COUNTY.

*Directors*—John F. Long, Ebensburg ; Raphael Hite, Carrolltown ; S. W. Miller, Johnstown.

*Officers*—Thomas Hoover, Steward, Ebensburg ; D. E. Duffton, Attorney, Ebensburg.

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#### CARBON COUNTY.

*Directors*—A. S. Monroe, Hazleton ; A. M. Neumüller, Lansford ; Samuel Harleman, Weatherly.

*Officers*—P. H. Latham, Physician, Weatherly ; George T. Wells, Steward, Rockport ; Hazleton National Bank, Treasurer, Hazleton ; James McCready, Secretary, Lansford.

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#### CHESTER COUNTY.

*Directors*—John S. Hope, Coatesville ; J. Preston Thomas, Whitford ; Samuel Wickersham, Avondale.

*Officers*—Dr. W. R. Perue, Physician, Unionville ; J. J. Gheen, Esq., Attorney, West Chester.

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#### CLINTON COUNTY.

*Directors*—William Ely, Lock Haven ; Reuben Shull, Lock Haven ; X. B. Ringler, Lock Haven ; Frank Geary, Lock Haven.

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#### COLUMBIA COUNTY.

##### MADISON TOWNSHIP POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Thomas Mordan, Jerseytown ; Jacob M. Girter, Jerseytown ; Cyrus Reichard, Buck Horn.

*Officers*—Thomas Mordan, Secretary and Treasurer, Jerseytown ; D. W. Vandine, Steward, Buck Horn.

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COLUMBIA COUNTY.

## BLOOM POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—J. M. Larish, President, Guava ; O. T. Wilson, Bloomsburg ; A. C. Hidlay, Bloomsburg.

*Officers*—C. A. Kleim, Secretary, Bloomsburg ; F. W. Redaker, Medical Attendant, Espy ; T. C. Harter, Medical Attendant, Bloomsburg ; A. L. Fritz, Attorney, Bloomsburg ; Thomas McBride, Steward, Bloomsburg ; Amanda McBride, Matron, Bloomsburg.

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## COLUMBIA COUNTY.

## CONINGHAM AND CENTRALIA POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—M. McBrearty, Centralia ; B. J. Doyle ; George Schaum.

*Officers*—M. McBrearty, President, Centralia ; B. J. Doyle, Centralia ; George Schaum, Centralia ; T. J. Reese, Clerk, Centralia ; Francis Brennar, Steward, Newlin ; A. J. Lenahan, Treasurer, Centralia ; Wm. A. Marr, Attorney, Ashland.

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## CRAWFORD COUNTY.

*Directors*—Levi Putnam, Hannonsburg ; Edgar Partch, Penn Line ; O. P. Blakeslee, Spartansburg.

*Officers*—G. W. Catchall, Sægertown.

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## CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

*Directors*—Michael Seavers, Walnut Bottom ; John H. Rhoads, Boiling Springs ; Henry Mentzer, Kersville.

*Officers*—P. M. Boyer, Steward, Carlisle ; T. U. Smith, Treasurer, Carlisle ; W. I. Kramer, Attorney, Carlisle ; Dr. W. H. Longsdorf, Physician, Carlisle.

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## DAUPHIN COUNTY.

*Directors*—Ellis W. Ford, 1826 North Sixth Street, Harrisburg ; Edward F. Hummel, Harrisburg ; Henry Cordes, Millersburg.

*Officers*—H. D. Bachman, Steward, Harrisburg ; Mrs. H. D. Bachman, Matron, Harrisburg ; Miss Kate McIlhenny, Assistant Matron ; Harrisburg ; G. A. L. Row, Clerk, Harrisburg.

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## DELAWARE COUNTY.

*Directors*—Chas. M. Cheyney, Booths' Corner ; Jos. Leedom, Manoa ; Calvert Carawell, Upland.

*Officers*—Wm. Eves, Steward, Lima ; S. Trimble, Physician, Lima, Isaac Johnson, Attorney, Media ; Wm. Eves, Treasurer, Lima ; Chas. M. Cheyney, Secretary, Booth's Corner.



## ERIE COUNTY.

*Directors*—Henry Dunn, Erie; Wm. Hopkins, Miles Grove; B. E. Riblet, Harbor Creek.

*Officers*—Henry Dunn, President, Erie; F. E. Wade, Secretary, Erie; J. I. Town, Treasurer, Erie; E. P. Gould, Attorney, Erie; M. H. Silverthorn, Steward, Erie; Mrs. M. H. Silverthorn, Matron, Erie; Geo. A. Garries, Resident Physician, Erie; Rev. Geo. Booth, Chaplain, West Millcreek.

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## FAYETTE COUNTY.

*Directors*—Chas. W. Keefer, Uniontown; William Bush, Dawson; William Handlen, Mt. Braddock.

*Officers*—Jno. D. Carr, Steward, Uniontown; Amanda M. Carr Matron, Uniontown; J. A. Batton, Physician, Uniontown; E. D. Fulton, Attorney, Uniontown.

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## FRANKLIN COUNTY.

*Directors*—Wm. Ferguson, Chambersburg; Geo. W. Imenell, Chambersburg; Geo. B. Foltz, Waynesboro.

*Officers*—S. M. Shellito, Treasurer, Chambersburg; Wm. Keefer, Clerk and Attorney, Chambersburg; David McClay, Physician, Chambersburg; Jacob Heckman, Chaplain, Chambersburg; A. H. Etter, Steward, Chambersburg; Mary C. Etter, Matron, Chambersburg.

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## GREEN COUNTY.

*Directors*—Levi Porter, Harveys; J. R. Bayard, Rice's Landing; S. C. Adamson, Waynesburg.

*Officers*—Wm. B. Cage, Stewart, Waynesburg; Mrs. Melissa Cage, Matron, Waynesburg; J. A. J. Bucannon, Attorney, Waynesburg; A. B. Pattent, Physician.

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## HUNTINGDON COUNTY.

*Directors*—E. O. Heck, Orbisonia; Simeon Wright, Calvin; H. C. Crownover, Saulsburg.

*Officers*—C. S. Heeter, Steward, Shirleysburg; John Douglas, Clerk, Shirleysburg.

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## LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

## BLAKELY POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Martin Cawley, Archbald; James J. Lynch, Olyphant; John R. Jones, Olyphant.

*Officers*—Martin Cawley, President, Archbald; James J. Lynch, Treasurer, Olyphant; John R. Jones, Secretary and Attorney, Olyphant.

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LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

## CARBONDALE POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—J. B. Faulkner, Carbondale; M. F. Gilmartin, Carbondale; D. Gorden, Carbondale; P. T. Moffet, Carbondale.

*Officers*—J. B. Faulkner, President, Carbondale; M. F. Gilmartin, Secretary, Carbondale; P. T. Moffett, Treasurer, Carbondale; J. Kelly, Physician, Carbondale; J. J. O'Neill, Attorney, Carbondale; Stanly Moor, Steward, Carbondale; Mrs. S. Moor, Matron, Carbondale.

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## LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

## SCRANTON POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—John Gibbons, 1901 Pittston Avenue, Scranton; Daniel Williams, 120 Sumner Avenue, Scranton; P. J. Murphy, Dummores; J. B. Gillespie, 110 N. Market Street, Scranton; Chas. Tropp, 415 Washington Avenue, Scranton; W. S. Langstaff, Diamond Mine, Scranton; Mrs. Francis B. Swan, 539 Clay Avenue, Scranton.

*Officers*—John Gibbons, President, 1901 Pittston Avenue, Scranton; E. J. Lynett, Secretary, 229 Washington Avenue, Scranton; Geo. Mitchell, Treasurer, 502 Lascar Avenue, Scranton; C. R. Parke, Out-Door Physician; Geo. W. Beemer Superintendent, Clark's Summit; B. F. Evans, Resident Physician, Clark's Summit.

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## LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

## NORTH LUZERNE POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Dr. Stephen J. Van Fleet, Fleetville; William Bell, Clifford; D. W. La Rue, Bald Mount; Thomas Smith, Dalton; S. D. Miller, Edella; M. H. Coon, Clark's Green; George Perry, Waverly.

*Officers*—Thomas Smith, Treasurer, Dalton; John C. Higgins, Secretary, Clark's Green; George Vasburg, Superintendent, Clark's Summit.

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## LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

## JENKIN'S TOWNSHIP POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—G. B. Seamans, Avoca; Louis Seibel, Pittston; Ira C. Atherton, Taylor; James Jones, Yatesville; Paul Bohan, Pittston.

*Officers*—G. B. Seamans, President, Avoca; Louis Seibel, Treasurer, Pittston; Paul Bohan, Secretary, Pittston.

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## LANCASTER COUNTY.

*Directors*—E. H. Hershey, Gordonville; J. S. Strine, Columbia; Wm. Good, Cedar Lane; D. C. Kready, Millersville; H. W. Graybill, Petersburg; C. Herr, Jr., Refton.

*Officers*—Geo. E. Worst, Superintendent, Lancaster; D. Frank Kline, Resident Physician, Lancaster.

## LAWRENCE COUNTY.

## NEW CASTLE POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Elias Lang, New Castle.

*Officers*—W. T. Burns, City Solicitor, New Castle; G. L. Leslie, Warden, New Castle; H. E. Campebell, Physician, New Castle.

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## LEBANON COUNTY.

*Directors*—Joshua Fernsler, Lebanon; Thomas C. Hefflefinger, Frederickburg; Wm. Keller, Heilmansdale.

*Officers*—Samuel Weiss, Physician, Lebanon; E. D. Krall, Treasurer, Lebanon; P. A. H. Boge, Steward, Lebanon; E. D. Miller, Attorney, Lebanon.

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## LUZERNE COUNTY.

## CENTRAL POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Abram Nesbitt, Kingston; Stephen B. Vaughn, Dorrance-ton; Ira Davenport, Plymouth; E. A. Alexander, Nanticoke; A. J. Bellis, Nanticoke; Marx Long, Wilkes-Barre; Louis Tisch, Wilkes-Barre; O. B. MacKnight, Plains.

*Officers*—Chas. Long, Physician, Wilkes-Barre; D. L. O'Neil, Attorney, Wilkes-Barre; Moses Eichelberger, Superintendent, Nanticoke; Mrs. Eichelberger, Matron, Nanticoke.

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## LYCOMING COUNTY.

## WILLIAMSPORT POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—J. C. Pierce, President, Williamsport; T. P. S. Wilson, Williamsport; D. W. Miller, Secretary, Williamsport.

*Officers*—N. S. Hill, Steward, Williamsport; C. W. Youngman, Physician, Williamsport; J. B. Krause, Solicitor, Williamsport.

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## McKEAN COUNTY.

*Directors*—James Biggins, Eldred; J. H. Tate, Smethport; Frank D. Simar, Smethport.

*Officers*—C. S. King, Superintendent, Smethport; B. Chadwick, Physician, Smethport; M. B. Greer, Clerk, Smethport.

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## MERCER COUNTY.

*Directors*—T. A. Robinson, Jamestown; J. W. Hawthorn, Mercer; J. H. Hope, Sharon; Mrs. J. W. Hawthorn, Mercer; Mrs. J. F. Hope, Sharon; Mrs. John W. Byers, Mercer.

*Officers*—John W. Byers, Steward, Mercer; Mrs. Anna Byers, Matron, Mercer.

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MIEFFLIN COUNTY.

*Directors*—A. C. Steinberger, Lewistown; D. S. Price, Yeagertown; C. G. Milliken, Kishaquillas.

*Officers*—L. H. Ruble, Steward, Lewistown; S. J. Brisbin, Clerk, Lewistown; R. C. Elder, Attorney, Lewistown; A. S. Harshberger, Physician, Lewistown.

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## MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

*Directors*—Henderson Supplee, Gulf Mills; Francis Kile, North Wales; Reuben Mumbauer, Pennsylvania.

*Officers*—C. U. Bean, Steward, Phoenixville; G. W. Stein, Physician, Royersford; E. F. Kane, Clerk, Norristown.

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## MONTOUR COUNTY.

## MAHONING TOWNSHIP POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Patrick M. Kerns, Danville; William Sunday, Mahoning Township; James O. Fraizer, Danville.

*Officers*—J. P. Bare, Treasurer, Danville; David Chestnut, Steward, Mahoning.

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## MONTOUR COUNTY.

## VALLEY TOWNSHIP POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Joseph Corell, Mausdale; William Curry, Mausdale; Thomas Cropley, Mausdale.

*Officers*—John Crumly, Steward, Mausdale; Joseph Corell, Treasurer, Mausdale; John Hendricks, Clerk, Mansdale; Edward S. Gearhart, Attorney, Danville; John R. Kimerer, Physician, Danville.

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## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY.

*Directors*—Samuel Kessler, Nazareth; James E. Kostenbader, Aluta; Edward Edelman, Hecktown.

*Officers*—Norman Schmidt, Steward, Nazareth; John Stoher, Treasurer, Easton; C. G. Beitel, Solicitor, Easton; Richard H. Beck, M. D., Physician, Necktown; George W. Cope, M. D., Physician, Nazareth; Rev. John Wahlbach and Rev. David Kuntz, Chaplains, Nazareth.

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## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

## SUNBURY POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Jacob Reem, Sunbury; John S. Keefer, Sunbury.

*Officers*—Elizabeth Haas, Matron, Sunbury.



## NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY.

## COAL TOWNSHIP POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—John F. Hays, Shamokin ; John H. Parker, Shamokin ; Emanuel Malick, Shamokin.

*Officers*—E. I. Weimer, Secretary, Shamokin ; Lew. Correl, Steward, Shamokin.

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## PERRY COUNTY.

*Directors*—John Swartz, President, New Bloomfield ; John Freeland, Newport ; George I. Rice, Kistler.

*Officers*—Henry D. Stewart, Clerk, Landisburg ; Edward R. Sponsler, Attorney, New Bloomfield ; John R. Boden, Steward and Treasurer, Loysville ; Mrs. John R. Boden, Matron, Loysville ; J. T. Hollenbaugh, Farmer, Loysville ; George L. Zimmerman, Physician, Loysville.

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## PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.

## CITY OF PHILADELPHIA POOR DISTRICT.

ROBERT D. MCGONNIGLE, ESQ., Corresponding Secretary Association of Directors of Poor, of Pennsylvania.

*Dear Sir :* Blockley Almshouse, Philadelphia, is under the control of the Department of Charities and Correction, consisting of a President and four Directors, as follows : President, William H. Lambert ; Directors, Alfred Moore, John Huggard, Wm. D. Gardner, Dr. Jas. W. Walk. For the transaction of business the Department is divided into two Bureaus, one of Charities and one of Correction. The first named, consisting of the President and two Directors, with Robert C. Floyd as Secretary, has general oversight of the Almshouse, the officers of which are as follows : Charles Lawrence, Superintendent ; Dr. E. E. Hughes, Chief Resident Physician ; Oliver P. Bohler, House Agent ; George Milliken, Visitor of Children. The address of all the Directors and Officers named is Philadelphia.

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## PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.

## GERMANTOWN POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Christian Donat, Chestnut Hill ; Dr. J. C. Gilbert, Chestnut Hill ; J. H. Pullinger, Germantown ; Chas. O. Roop, Germantown ; H. J. Benson, Germantown ; David Harmer, Germantown ; F. W. List, Germantown ; F. H. Massey, Germantown ; Alex. P. Keyser, Germantown.

*Officers*—Henry Laut, Steward.

---

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.

## OXFORD AND LOWER DUBLIN POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—George M. Shallcross, Frankford; Samuel Hillis, Frankford; William Hilt, Frankford; Jacob Titus, Tacony; George Hoff, Holmesburg; William Cottman, Sandiford; Robert Cambell, Holmesburg; Wm. Dedaker, Bustleton.

*Officers*—Charles Green, Tax Collector, Sandford; Charles S. Snyder, Delinquent Tax Collector.

---

## SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.

*Directors*—Thomas J. Tracey, Shenandoah; John Bergan, Hecksherville; Robert Ebling, Pinedale.

*Officers*—Elijah Emerich, Steward, Schuylkill Haven; E. D. Carr, Physician, Schuylkill Haven; Jno. J. O'Connor, Clerk, Schuylkill Haven; Watson F. Shepherd, Esq., Solicitor, Pottsville.

---

## SOMERSET COUNTY.

*Directors*—Frederick Weller, President, Somerset; William Dickey, Berlin; Joseph L. Miller, Lavansville.

*Officers*—L. C. Colborn, Attorney and Clerk, Somerset; John C. Miller, Steward, Somerset; J. W. Carothers, Physician, Somerset; John Hamer, Treasurer, Somerset.

---

## SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY.

## NEW MILFORD POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Ira Moss, New Milford; N. G. Bishop, New Milford; W. H. Foot, New Milford.

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## SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY.

## AUBURN AND AUST POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—C. W. Pierson, Auburn Centre; L. T. Birchard, Birchardville; George M. Sheldon, Lynn.

*Officers*—John M. France, Treasurer, Auburn Corners; W. N. Barnes, Secretary, Montrose; Charles Stevens, Steward, Rush Four Corners.

---

## TIOGA COUNTY.

*Directors*—M. H. Stebbins, Wellsboro; C. H. DeWitt, Wellsboro; T. H. Bailey, Wellsboro.

## VENANGO COUNTY.

*Directors*—Wm. A. Maitland, Franklin ; William Cross, Franklin ; Samuel H. McKinney, Franklin.

*Officers*—Henry A. Culp, Superintendent, Sugar Creek ; Mrs. Henry A. Culp, Matron, Sugar Creek ; A. J. Ward, Clerk, Franklin ; C. A. Myers, Attorney, Franklin ; Dr. McClelland, Physician, Utica.

---

## WARREN COUNTY.

*Directors*—P. N. Robinson, McGraw ; John A. Aikins, Youngsville ; Roger Mooney, Stoneham.

*Officers*—E. L. Morris, Superintendent, Youngsville.

---

## WASHINGTON COUNTY.

*Directors*—D. W. Myers, Lone Pine ; W. B. McKennan, Washington ; Thomas Griffith, Claysville.

*Officers*—John Wilson, Superintendent, Arden ; Taylor & McIlvaine, Attorneys, Washington ; John Wilson, Clerk, Arden ; W. W. Sprowls, M. D., Physician, Houstonville ; Rev. R. C. Wolf, Chaplain, Canonsburg.

---

## WAYNE COUNTY.

## HONESDALE AND TEXAS TOWNSHIP POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—August Hartung, Honesdale ; Wm. H. Lee, Honesdale ; C. C. Lone, Honesdale.

*Officers*—A. Hartung, President, Honesdale ; Wm. H. Lee, Treasurer, Honesdale ; C. C. Lane, Secretary, Honesdale.

---

## WESTMORELAND COUNTY.

*Directors*—Jacob Gettemy, Donegal ; W. D. Reamer, Greensburg ; Paul Bossart, Youngstown ; William Welsh, Markle ; John R. Hayden, Greensburg.

*Officers*—L. H. Hillis, Superintendent, Greensburg ; Geo. S. Rumbaugh, Attorney, Greensburg ; S. M. Walker, Physician, Greensburg.

---

## YORK COUNTY.

*Directors*—W. H. Rodenhouse, York ; Felix Bentzel, Sping Forge ; Reuben F. Minnich, York.

*Officers*—B. S. Heindle, Steward, York ; Z. C. Myers, Physician, York ; Thomas Ramsay, Clerk, York ; Horace Keesey, Attorney, York.

THE  
NINETEENTH ANNUAL SESSION  
OF THE  
ASSOCIATION

OF  
**Directors of the Poor**

OF THE  
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA,

HELD AT

WILLIAMSPORT, PA., OCTOBER 17TH, 18TH, 19TH, 1893.

---

IRA E. BRIGGS, STENOGRAPHER.

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PITTSBURGH :  
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1894.





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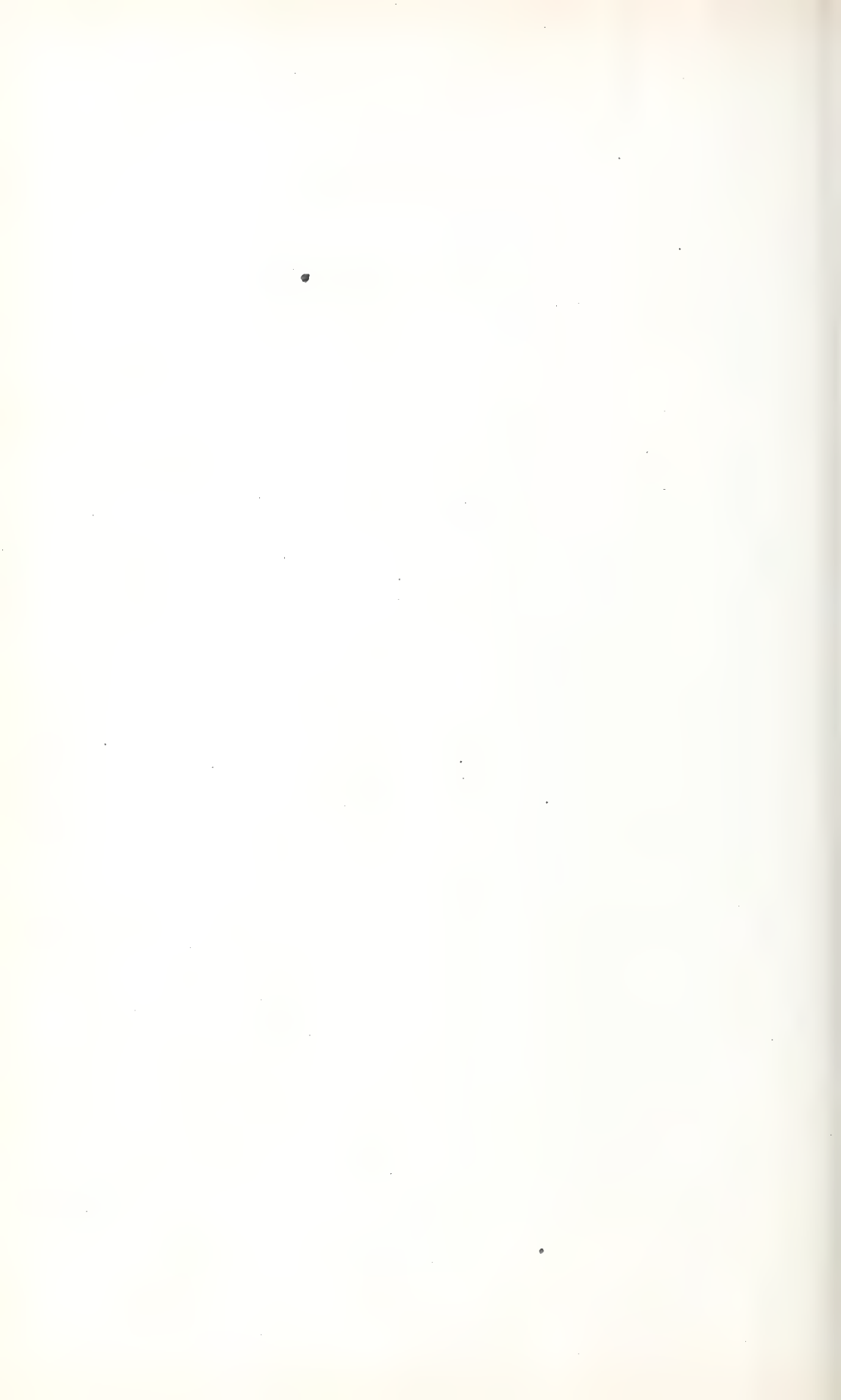
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## ORGANIZATION FOR 1893-94.

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J. D. CARR, of Fayette Co.,	President,
J. F. ROBB, of Allegheny Co.,	Vice-President.
PAUL BOHAN, of Luzerne Co.,	" "
Mrs. J. L. ANDERSON, of Allegheny Co.,	" "
Miss C. H. PEMBERTON, of Philadelphia Co.,	" "
D. W. MILLER, of Lycoming Co.,	" "
H. W. GRABILL, of Lancaster Co.,	" "
W. P. HUNKER, of Allegheny Co.,	Secretary
ROBT. D. MCGONNIGLE, of Allegheny Co.,	Recording Secretary.
JOHN S. HOPE, of Chester Co.,	Treasurer.





# LIST OF COMMITTEES.

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## COMMITTEE ON OFFICERS.

W. J. GLENN, . . . . . Allegheny,      JACOB S. STRINE, . . . . . Lancaster,  
J. W. BYERS, . . . . . Mercer,      RAPHAEL HITE, . . . . . Cambria,  
SAMUEL WICKERSHAM, . . . . . Chester.

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## RESOLUTIONS.

Dr. JAS. W. WALK, . . . Philadelphia,      Mrs. BELLE RICHARDS, . . Venango,  
Dr. H. M. WETHERILL, Philadelphia,      Dr. C. D. WILKINS, . . . Pittsburgh,  
THOS. ARMSTRONG, . . . . . Bedford,      J. SHARP WILSON, . . . . . Beaver.

---

## AUDITING COMMITTEE.

G. B. SWISHER, . . . . . Chester.      O. B. MACKNIGHT, . . . . . Luzerne,  
S. M. SHILLITO, . . . . . Franklin.

---

## COMMITTEE ON PLACE.

J. D. CARR, . . . . . Fayette,      Mrs. J. L. ANDERSON, . . Allegheny,  
J. R. BURG, . . . . . Montgomery,      Dr. Z. C. MYERS, . . . . . York,  
PETER C. STOCK, . . . . . Adams.

---

## FINANCE.

D. S. BRUMBAUGH, . . . . . Blair,      B. E. RIBLET, . . . . . Erie,  
CHAS. LAWRENCE, . . Philadelphia,      JNO. C. MILLER, . . . . . Somerset,  
W. D. REAMER, . . . . . Westmoreland.

---

## LEGISLATION.

E. P. GOULD, . . . . . Erie,      J. H. MORRISON, . . . . . Philadelphia,  
W. F. SHEPARD, . . . . . Schuylkill,      J. D. CARR, . . . . . Fayette,  
A. B. REISER, . . . . . Berks,      GEO. LINDERMAN, . . . Allegheny,  
R. D. McGONNIGLE, . . . . . Allegheny.

# LIST OF COMMITTEES.--Continued.

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## REPORTS OF COUNTIES.

CHAS. S. SNYDER, . . . Philadelphia,	Mrs. S. WILLIARD, . . . . . Indiana,
Mrs. L. B. WALTON, . . . . . Chester,	D. W. MILLER, . . . . . Williamsport,
WM. McKENNAN, . . . . . Washington.	

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## COMMITTEE ON PROGRAMME.

L. C. COLBORN, . . . . . Somerset,	Mrs. L. P. WILSON, . . . . . Blair,
Dr. Z. C. MYER, . . . . . York,	D. S. BRUMBAUGH, . . . . . Blair,
R. D. McGONNIGLE, . . . . . Allegheny.	

## THE NINETEENTH ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE

# Association of Directors of the Poor,

OF THE

## STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.

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The nineteenth annual meeting of the Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania, convened in the Court House, at Williamsport, Pa., at 10 A. M., October 17th, 1893, and in the absence of President E. P. Gould, was called to order by Mr. R. D. McGonnigle.

*Mr. McGonnigle*:—Gentlemen:—Mr. Gould has been detained at home on account of illness and has sent me a letter saying it is impossible for him to be here at this session, much as he regrets it. He has sent his address as President, which will be read at the proper time. So I take it upon myself to call the meeting to order and to make this statement. It is necessary to have a Chairman, and proper that some one familiar with the work in hand should serve. Mr. Colborn, has acted as Chairman of the Programme Committee and is familiar with the work in hand, and it occurs to me, after consultation with some of the friends, we ought to ask him to act as Chairman, and I make a motion to that effect.

(The motion of Mr. McGonnigle is seconded.)

J. L. Strine, of Lancaster, nominated Mr. Snyder, of Philadelphia, as Chairman.

*Chas. Lawrence*, (Blockley): Mr. Snyder is represented as "Mr. Snyder, of Philadelphia;" He is merely the representative of a small township almshouse in the county of Philadelphia. He is not the representative of the city of Philadelphia.



Upon a rising vote the Secretary declares fifty in favor of Mr. Colborn to twenty-eight for Mr. Snyder.

Mr. L. C. Colborn, of Somerset, was declared elected President in absence of President Gould.

Prayer was here offered by Rev. W. H. Graff, of Williamsport, preceded by the Lord's Prayer, the delegates rising and joining.

Mrs. Dr. Keonig, of Williamsport, favored the Convention with a very sweet song "Sweet Charity," by Gordon. She was accompanied by Miss Egley.

Mayor W. G. Elliot, of Williamsport, was introduced by President Colborn, and delivered the following address of welcome which was received with hearty applause.

*Mr. President, and members of the Association of Directors of the Poor:*—On behalf of the municipal authorities and the citizens of Williamsport, I desire to extend to you a hearty welcome, not only to the city in general, but to our homes and firesides.

I can assure you that as a people, we appreciate the importance of your Association, and are not unmindful of the honor conferred upon us by your presence.

For some years past Williamsport, has had strong reasons for laying aside the time-worn title of "sawdust city," and adopting in its stead that which in a social and hospitable sense implies a great deal more, that of "convention city." We are proud of the fact that many associations of men and women, have repeatedly selected Williamsport for their annual gatherings, your Association being the fourth that will visit us during this beautiful autumn month. We disclaim any pretensions of vanity on this account however, even though we realize that others think so well of us as to come and accept of our hospitality.

I can assure you that our people are more than pleased to greet this Association, representing as it does, one of the first great principles that enlist the attention of mankind—charity,—and the exemplification of that golden rule which has a more direct bearing on the happiness of the human race, than anything ever conceived of by man—"do unto others as you would have others do unto you."

The proper care and treatment of the poor is a question that appeals to the nobler qualities of man. No matter how perfect its solution, constant diligence will be imperative, for as long as humanity exists those who feel poverty's cruel sting will be with us requiring constant attention, that their burdens may be lessened. You, who are devoted to this noble work should be encouraged now—you will be blessed afterwards.

In welcoming you to our beautiful city, I can say on behalf of our people, that our united wish is, that your deliberations may be fruitful, and that much good may follow as the direct result of this nineteenth annual gathering of your Association. Good has come out of your work in the past, and we trust that this meeting may accomplish a greater measure of success.

During your sojourn amongst us, consider that our doors are open to you. We shall endeavor to make your visit enjoyable, so that when you complete your labors you may bear away pleasant memories of Williamsport and her people.

We are situated in the midst of one of the richest valleys of this great State of Pennsylvania, the natural scenery of which can scarcely be surpassed, and during your leisure hours we hope that you will avail yourselves of the opportunity to observe all the interesting features that we possess.

Again, ladies and gentlemen, I bid you welcome, and in conclusion can only say that we are at your command.

*Mr. Lawrence* (Philadelphia): On behalf of the ladies and gentlemen present, I desire to extend to you our sincere thanks for the generous manner in which you have extended the welcome of the city to us, and to assure you, on their behalf, that they appreciate it.

The Directors of the Poor have a great work on their hands. Charity is one of the themes that has thrilled the breasts of the noblest men and women of the past and present time. These Directors of the Poor not alone have to look to the interests of those to be served, but they must as well protect the interests of the servers. Charity, like all other good things in life, is much abused. If all places could be governed alike, the duties of the Directors would be simply to carry out the laws as placed on the

statute books ; but in a great State like Pennsylvania, with so many different ways of managing their own private affairs, a law would have to be general : it could not be in detail, for no law could be passed that would govern the conduct of the several institutions of this State. For instance, the rules that would govern in a county like yours, where possibly every person in your almshouse is well known to the residents, could not govern a great city, where probably the admissions to the institution are greater in one day than the entire number of some other institutions in a year ; hence, without great care and deliberation on the part of Directors, the noble theme of charity would be abused. They would impose on the better feelings of mankind, and we find they do, and the only fear in the breasts of those engaged in this work is that so much contact with that class may make them calloused ; so they will lose the finer sensibilities, and might do an injury to some deserving poor. But remembering, as Mrs. Hemans says, " It were better that ninety-nine guilty men should escape than that one innocent man should be punished," I feel that the Directors of the Poor work on that principle, giving the benefit of the doubt in all cases.

I doubt very much if the world at large can realize the character of people to be dealt with by the officials of the almshouses and jails. The dependent classes must necessarily come together, and, in a manner, the same management must govern both. The world at large thinks that all the poor people in the almshouses are poor, deserving old men and women, reduced to poverty through no fault of their own ; they also consider that all the people in the prisons are hardened criminals. Neither is the fact. In all the almshouses of the larger cities a very great number of those people are not those who would come under the head of "deserving poor ;" hence the difficulty of the administration of any trust relating to these institutions, because, to carry out their trust justly, they must be just not alone to the receiver but to the giver as well. And one of the greatest things in the way of advancement in the penal institutions must be the education of the people to the fact that all confined within those walls are not hardened criminals. It is as necessary to sift out the young beginners from the prisons as the impostors from the almshouses.

I again thank you, Mr Mayor, for your kind welcome to us, on behalf of this Convention, and we hope when the Convention adjourns you will find that the proceedings are not alone a credit to those engaged in the work, but to Williamsport, and to the great State of Pennsylvania—a State celebrated all over the United States and the world for its charitable work. It is well known, even as far as Russia, that when poverty appeals the people of Pennsylvania are always the first to respond, and never do it grudgingly, and keep on doing, and they say, “God bless Pennsylvania. (Applause.)

*Mayor Elliot:* I again welcome you all.

*Mr. Colborn:* It has been said that there are but two things that are certain, death and taxation. By a letter received from Colonel Gould, our worthy President, whose absence we all deeply deplore, I am informed that his father-in-law is lying at the point of death, and that his death is hourly looked for. His wife being the only child, he thought he could not be here, and, under the circumstances, he does what we would all do. We only can regret his absence and the conditions that keep him away. He has, however, forwarded me his very able address, which I shall take pleasure in reading.

Mr. Colborn read the address of President E. P. Gould, which follows, and its reading was greeted with hearty applause:

*Ladies and Gentlemen of this Convention:*—This is the Nineteenth Annual Convention of the Association of the Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania who have met here to devise more efficient methods to relieve and prevent suffering, poverty and want, and to check and prevent vice and crime which are incident thereto. There is no city in this Commonwealth where the people will give us a more cordial welcome, or be more interested in the work we have met to do. The citizens of this beautiful and prosperous city are to be heartily congratulated on having, long ago, become famous for their large heartedness, and for their unselfish and patriotic liberality and hospitality. The volunteer soldiers who passed through this town from 1861 to 1865 always carried away with them full stomachs and haversacks, and a grateful remembrance of the kindness shown them. The reputation



then made for being a warm hearted and generous people seems to have been fully maintained ever since. It was a source of profound gratification to the Convention assembled last year on the shores of Lake Erie to receive an invitation bidding us to come this year to the hearts and homes of the beautiful city which so gracefully reposes on the banks of the classic Susquehanna. The eloquent words of your welcome have indicated the depth, the warmth and the reality of this invitation. I trust that our meeting here may both pleasant and profitable to the members of the Convention, and that our coming may not be regretted by the citizens of Williamsport. A cordial invitation is extended to the people of this city, and to all others who are interested in the administration of public or private charity, to attend the meetings of this Convention.

The thanks of this Convention are due to the members of the Program Committee for the able and satisfactory manner in which they have performed their duties. It will be observed that a change has been made by the committee in arranging the business of this Convention so as to give more time to the delegates to discuss the various subjects and questions that interest them; as well as an opportunity to submit for discussion such topics as are of interest in their several districts. It is desired that this opportunity be freely taken advantage of by the delegates.

Your attention will be called to: "What has been accomplished by this Association during the past year." As a paper will be presented on that subject, I will not enlarge upon it, except to say that it was a disappointment and surprise to learn that the Governor had vetoed the bill, which the last Legislature passed, giving to the several counties which supported in local institutions a portion of their pauper insane, the same *per capita* assistance from the State Treasury as when they were placed in the public institutions of the State. The provisions of the bill seemed eminently fair, and it is unjust to require the districts that are compelled to keep their own insane in local institutions to bear this extra burden.

Through the influence of this Association the Act authorizing the building of a new institution for the care and treatment of feeble minded children in Western Pennsylvania became a law, but it was a great surprise to learn that the commission appointed to locate that institution was composed entirely of men who were in no way interested in either the management and care of such unfortunates, or in the distribution of public charity or the conduct of any of our charitable institutions. Owing to the high character of the members of that commission it is hoped that the location selected will be a wise one, but the ignoring of

experience by the Governor in so important a matter was, it seems to me, a dangerous experiment

The ever troublesome question of outdoor relief will doubtless claim your attention. Experience is everywhere teaching that, while such relief may not be wholly dispensed with, it should be reduced to the minimum—much that is given as outdoor relief, with the best of intentions, is productive of more harm than good. The unwise giving of public charity tends to increase pauperism and to create a class of mendicants who become chronic beggars at the doors of every place where alms are bestowed. There should be not only some system, (I regret to say there is none,) in giving out this kind of relief, but there should be a uniform system strictly adhered to.

In many of the States much thoughtful attention is being given to the question of how best to care for and dispose of the children who become a public charge. So important is this work that a national organization has been formed with the sole object of taking, caring for and placing out of pauper or homeless children. Already some eleven or twelve States have organized auxiliary societies working under, through and in harmony with the National Association. In the furtherance of this great object the Children's Aid Societies of Pennsylvania are doing noble work, and every encouragement and assistance in our power should be given them. Their method is the natural one: "It is taking a child—one child—and carrying it quietly, tenderly and quickly to a good family home," thus substituting in a measure a mother's love. One session of the Convention has been set apart for the consideration of the work of the Children's Aid Societies, and such matters as the ladies desire to bring to the attention of the Convention. Let us carefully consider the views they submit, and heartily co-operate with them in their work—for we must not forget that men can accomplish but very little for the benefit of humanity without the aid and influence of women.

What shall be done with tramps? is yet an unsolved problem. It is no new question; our fathers and grandfathers were perplexed with it. The term, "Tramp," as applied to this roving class is comparatively new, but the species was known of old. In the days of our forefathers it was the idle, lazy, shiftless and sometimes weakminded men who roved over the country begging and pilfering a living. But to-day the criminal element largely predominates, and the question is no longer, how best to abate a nuisance, but rather how to deal with a real and constantly increasing danger. This evil should be boldly faced, and a uniform method of dealing with tramps throughout the State should be adopted and rigidly enforced.

Your especial attention is directed to the subject of Poor Law Revision, which will be presented during this Convention for your consideration. Until there is a uniform system of poor law administration in this State no general improvement in methods can be hoped for. We may in convention determine what is a better way to reach a certain desired result, but with our diversified systems of management, almost wholly regulated and controlled by local and special laws, it is impossible to carry out any system or method agreed upon. The bill prepared by the committee and submitted to the last Convention, was printed with the proceedings of that Convention, and has been sent to all the Directors of the Poor in the State, so that everyone who desired to investigate the provisions of that bill have had ample time to do so. Mr. Sheppard will, at the proper time, explain fully the provisions of the proposed Act of Assembly, and this Convention should give the bill a strong endorsement in order that the necessary steps may be taken to have it properly presented to the next Legislature. It is exceedingly unpleasant to have to say in this connection that in all the efforts made by this Association to have the poor laws of the State codified and made uniform throughout the State, we have had no assistance from the leading charity organization of the State. We know that it is impossible to remedy most of the existing evils without a general law making uniform our system of poor law administration. They also know that while New York, Ohio, Michigan, Minnesota and other sister States are making rapid advance in their methods of caring for the poor and dispensing public charity, our own State is not, and cannot, improve her methods under the present systems, and it is with astonishment that we view their indifference, if not hostility, to every effort of this Association towards reform. (It is with great reluctance that reference is made to this matter at this time, and it would not have been done but for the fact that longer silence would have been censurable.) The demand for a general law which makes uniform poor law systems and methods in the State is imperative, and those to whom, by their position, we have a right to look for aid and assistance must come out and take a stand openly in this matter, and, if hostile, give a reason for adhering to the old and effete methods. No man or body of men, however able or elevated their position, can long impede or delay this much needed reform. Coming directly from the people as their chosen agents, we must be true and faithful to the public welfare, and we have no right to choose between duty and our own individual interests or convenience.

In reviewing the past work of this Association, we can, I think, speak with pride of the good work it has done and the re-



sults that have been accomplished. We all aim and labor to reach the same desired ends, but there are many and diverse ideas entertained as how best to bring about the results which all desire. It is by a full, free, reasonable and friendly interchange of opinions, and a careful study of all the systems that have from time to time been in use that the best results can be obtained, and our views become more uniform, and the best methods adopted.

Our Association is a school in which we all are, year by year, being taught the true meaning of the word "charity." Ail giving to the poor is not charity. The bestowal upon the poor of that which does not benefit them works to their own and the public injury. The fullest Christian sympathy for the needy and suffering should go hand in hand with an intelligent regard for the public good and a loyalty to duty in the performance of public business, and then the best results will be obtained.

As we enter upon the work of this Convention, we should strive to lay aside every personal prejudice, interest and ambition, and in the work we have met to do let us endeavor to learn how best to alleviate human suffering and want, check the tide of pauperism, and gain broader and clearer views of our official and personal duties, and then will we have as our reward approving consciences and the commendation of those whom we represent.

*Mr. Brumbaugh (Blair):* I believe this address has been the ablest of any we have had in our Conventions, and that there are matters in it of vital importance. I think these suggestions should be acted upon, and I move that a committee be appointed to report upon the President's address at the proper time, which was agreed to.

Messrs. Brumbaugh, Dr. Walk, of Philadelphia, and Guy, of Allegheny, were appointed such a committee.

*Mr. Charles Lawrence:* As our President is absent on account of illness, I move that the Secretary, Mr. McGonnigle, be instructed to send him a dispatch conveying the heartfelt sympathy of the members of this Convention to the members of the family in their distress, which was agreed to.

The following programme of business for the meeting was presented by the committee and adopted:



Tuesday, October 17th, 10 o'clock A. M.—Calling to order. Music. Prayer, Rev. W. H. Graff, Williamsport. Address of Welcome, Hon. W. G. Elliott, Mayor of Williamsport. Response, Charles Lawrence, Superintendent Blockley Almshouse, Philadelphia. President's Address, E. P. Gould, Esq., Erie. Enrollment of Delegates. The directors and associations represented will be called in their order and will present a subject in writing for discussion. The subjects may be of local or general interest, and on which they may ask for some advice or criticism. In one district it may be Out Door Relief, another Tramps, Care of Insane, salaries paid Directors, Justices' and Constables' costs, Undertakers' and Physicians' bills, &c., &c., which subjects will be placed in the hands of a committee who will place one or more on the program of each session for discussion. One hour of each session will be devoted to the discussion of the subject. Appointment of Committees. Committee on Officers. Committee on Auditing of Accounts. Committee on Finances. Committee on Place of Next Meeting. Committee on Reports of Counties. Committee on Resolutions.

Afternoon Session, October 17th, 2 o'clock, P. M.—Music. Prayer. Address, "Chronic Insane and the State Asylum at Wernersville," Henry M. Wetherill, M. D., Secretary Board of Lunacy. Discussion opened by George Worst, Lancaster, closed by George Linderman, Pittsburgh. Discussion. Subject to be named by committee. Address, "Legal Settlements," W. Arch McLain, Gettysburg. Discussion opened by James F. Robb, Allegheny, closed by E. B. Reiser, Reading.

Evening Session, 7.30 P. M.—Music. Prayer. Report of the Overseers of the Poor of Lycoming County. Statistics and General information with Comparisons, Otto G. Kaupp, Esq., Williamsport. Discussion opened by Cadwalader Biddle, Philadelphia, closed by W. S. Brumbaugh, Blair. Address, "Care of Epileptics," Dr. Z. C. Myers, York. Discussion opened by W. J. Glenn, Allegheny, closed by W. D. Reamer, Westmoreland. Discussion. Subject to be named by committee.

Morning Session, October 18th, 9 o'clock, A. M.—Music. Prayer. Report, "Poor Law Revision," W. F. Shepard, Pottsville. Discussion opened by W. H. Morrison, Philadelphia, closed by R. D. McGonnigle, Pittsburgh. Discussion. Subject to be named by committee. Report, "Work of the Association During the Past Year," L. C. Colborn, Somerset. Reports of committees. Place of holding next meeting. Auditing of accounts. Officers. Finance.

Afternoon Session, October 18th, 2 o'clock P. M.—Devoted to work of the Children's Aid Society. Music. Prayer. Address, "What Provision should be made for the Children in our Poor Houses and Charitable Institutions not placed out?" Mrs. J. L. Anderson. Address of Mrs. L. P. Wilson. Address, "Reformatory Work; at what age should Children be placed in Reformatories?" Mrs. H. Lee Mason, Allegheny. Report, "Work of the Children's Aid for the past year," Miss C. H.

Pemberton, Philadelphia. Paper, "Proper Education of Children's Aid Society's Children," Mrs. Jane T. Bernard. Statistics, Mrs. Rebecca B. Chambers, Chester. Short Talks: Mrs. T. P. S. Wilson, Williamsport; Mrs. Bell K. Richards, Venango; Samuel Wickersham, Chester; Mrs. M. O. Kooser, Somerset; Mrs. Francis S. Childs, Philadelphia; Wm. H. Lambert, Philadelphia; Mrs. L. P. Wilson, Altoona. These talks will be limited to five minutes each and may be on subjects of their own choosing. NOTE—The Children's Aid Society will hold a special session during the Convention, time and place to be announced on the evening of the first day of the Convention, to devise plans and map out the work for the coming year. The meeting will be called to order by Vice President Mrs. Rebecca B. Chambers.

Evening Session, 7.30 P. M.—Music. Prayer. Address, "The Past, Present and Future of our Charitable Institutions," Dr. J. W. Walk, Philadelphia. Music. Address, "Is Pauperism a Crime?" Dr. C. W. Youngman, Williamsport. Music. Short Talks: Talcott Williams, R. D. McGonnigle, J. D. Carr, W. A. Kramer, Charles Lawrence, Mrs. H. C. Campbell, Mrs. Lydia B. Walton, Mrs. Gertrude Biddle, Rev. Chas. H. Bond. These talks will be limited to ten minutes each, upon subjects of their own choosing. Report of Committee on Resolutions. Reception. There will be a reception held after the evening session, the place to be announced at the meeting.

Thursday, October 19th.—This day will be devoted to such work of entertainment as the Committee on Program and the local Committee of Arrangements shall present, and will be announced in due time.

NOTE—The reports of the various Homes and Institutions will be prepared and handed the Committee on Reports. Let this report include the names of the Directors, and Officers, &c., of each institution.

The enrollment of delegates was taken up, and at this time and during the session the following delegates were enrolled:

ADAMS COUNTY—*Almshouse*—John A. Oiler, Peter C. Stock, Elias Fissel, Mrs. Elias Fissel.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Pittsburgh Home*—Dr. C. W. Welkin.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny County Home*—W. H. Guy, H. W. Ochse, R. Smiley, W. J. Glenn.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Allegheny City Home*—William P. Hunker, Robt. D. McGonnigle.

BEAVER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Geo. W. Cleis, Geo. W. Engle, J. Sharp Wilson.

BEDFORD COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Geo. Kerr, Thos. J. Croyle, Thos. Armstrong.

BLAIR COUNTY—*Almshouse*—D. S. Brumbaugh.

CAMBRIA COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Raphæl Hite, J. F. Long, S. W. Miller, Thos. Hooven.

CARBON COUNTY—*Middle Coal Field Almshouse*—A. M. Neumuller, A. S. Monroe, Geo. T. Wells.

CHESTER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—John S. Hope, Saml. Wickersham, C. B. Swisher, Martha Swisher.

CRAWFORD COUNTY—*Almshouse*—G. W. Cutchall.

ERIE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—William Hopkinson, B. E. Riblet, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Silverthorn.

FAYETTE COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Wm. Bush, Wm. Handlin, J. P. Mills, John D. Carr, Supt., Mrs. Rev. H. F. King, Children's Aid Society.

FRANKLIN COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Geo. W. Immell, C. A. Snese-roth, Geo. B. Foltz, Wm. B. Shields, Jacob Potter, S. M. Shillito.

HUNTINGDON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—E. O. Heck, H. C. Crownover.

LACKAWANNA COUNTY—*Jenkins Township*—Hon. G. B. Seamans, Ira C. Atherton, Louis Seibel, James Jones, Paul Bohan.

LANCASTER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—H. G. Grabill, Jacob S. Strine, R. W. Bard, B. W. Weaver, C. Herr, Jr., E. H. Hershey Wm. Good, S. W. Miller, M. D., Wm. C. Grube, Mrs. Wm. Good.

LEBANON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Thos. Hefflefinger, John Wright, Wm. Keller, Jos. D. Zimmerman, Wm. Carothers.

LEHIGH COUNTY—*Almshouse*—S. A. J. Kern, R. M. Rolder, Wm. Deibert, S. R. Engelman.

LUZERNE COUNTY—*Central Poor District*—Marx Long, A. J. Bellis, Louis Fisch, Abram Nesbit, O. B. Macknight, Eugene Alexander, Moses Eichelberger.

LYCOMING COUNTY—The following are the only Delegates that registered from Lycoming County :

LIMESTONE TWP.—J. F. Harmer.

McHENRY TWP.—B. F. Campbell.

McNETT TWP.—W. H. Parsons.

PRATT TWP.—C. B. Riddell.

SOUTH WILLIAMSPORT—I. M. Crissman.

There were some additional Overseers of the Poor from the various districts of Lycoming County who did not register.

MERCER COUNTY—*Almshouse*—J. W. Hawthorne, J. F. Hope, Albert Porter, John W. Byers.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Henderson Supplee, Jacob R. Bergey, C. U. Bean.

NORTHAMPTON COUNTY — *Almshouse* — James E. Kostenbader. Edward Edelman, Herman Schmidt, John Stotzer.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Blockley*—James W. Walk, M. D., Chas Lawrence, Supt., Daniel E. Hughes, M. D.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Germantown*—F. W. List, T. H. Pulinger, David Harmer, Henry Laut.

PHILADELPHIA COUNTY—*Oxford and Lower Dublin*—Chas. S. Snyder and daughter, Geo. M. Shallcross and wife, Jacob Titus and wife, W. H. Morrison, Esq.

SCHUYKILL COUNTY—*Almshouse*—Watson F. Sheperd, John J. O'Connor, Robert Ebling, William Derr, John Bergan, Patrick J. Bergan.

SOMERSET COUNTY—*Almshouse*—William Dickey, Jos. L. Miller, John C. Miller, L. C. Colborn.

SUSQUEHANNA COUNTY—*Auburn and Rush*—L. T. Birchard.

TIOGA COUNTY—*Almshouse*—T. H. Bailey, M. H. Stebins, C. H. DeWitt.

WASHINGTON COUNTY—*Almshouse*—W. B. McKennan, Thos. Griffith, D. W. Myers, John Wilson and wife, Mrs. L. A. Wilson, J. W. Ross.



WESTMORELAND COUNTY—*Alms house*—Paul Bossart, W. D. Reamer, John R. Hayden, Wm. Welsh, Geo. Hartzell, L. H. Hillis, Supt., Geo. S. Rumbaugh.

YORK COUNTY—*Alms house*—Reuben Minnich, Geo. Dawn, Felix Bentzel, Dr. Z. C. Myers.

STATE BOARD OF CHARITIES—Cadwalder Biddle, Dr. J. W. C. O'Neal.

COMMITTEE ON LUNACY—Dr. Henry M. Wetherill.

SOCIETY FOR ORGANIZING CHARITY, PHILADELPHIA—Dr. Jas. W. Walk.

#### CHILDREN AID SOCIETIES—

PENNSYLVANIA—Miss C. H. Pemberton.

WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA—Mrs. W. P. Price, Mrs. J. L. Anderson.

CHESTER COUNTY—Mrs. B. Walton, Miriam A. Spenkman

FAYETTE COUNTY—Mrs. Rev. H. F. King.

INDIANA COUNTY—Mrs. Sue Williard. \*

BLAIR COUNTY—Mrs. Clari G. Bruner, Mrs. S. P. Wilson.

VENANGO COUNTY—Mrs. Belle K. Richards

WESTMORELAND COUNTY—Mrs. S. G. Townsend, Mrs. Nettie Elbery.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY—Mrs. Geo. W. Rogers, Mrs. Dr. J. K. Weaver.

ALLEGHENY COUNTY—*Bethesda Home and Rosalia Foundling Asylum*—Mrs. M. F. Hutchins.

WILLIAMSPORT—*Home of the Friendless*—Mrs. Mary C. Miller.

WILLIAMSPORT INDUSTRIAL SCHOOL—Mrs. T. P. S. Wilson.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Since our last meeting I have been impressed that the work of this Association is becoming known, and is having its effect. For instance, a couple of months ago a gentleman sent from the English government to investigate the emigrant and wage question and pauperism, came to get a copy

of our report of the Erie meeting. We ought to be proud of that. I asked him what brought him to me. He said that he heard of the meeting and of our work, and that we had figures and facts that he couldn't get anywhere else.

Since that I had a letter from the Census Department, asking for a full set of our reports for the use of the Census Library. That there was information there he couldn't get anywhere else.

The bill that was passed authorizing the Governor to appoint a Commission for a site to erect an institution for the feeble minded in Western Pennsylvania couldn't have been passed only through this Association and the Children's Aid Society.

Again, the reports of this Association are sought for by all the Boards of Public Charities in the United States. I have inquiries for them constantly from all parts of the country. I thought it well to let you know this, so you will understand that if you don't see the effects of your work immediately, you are educating the people and benefiting every one with whom we are coming in contact.

*Mr. Colborn:* It is understood, from the circular letter sent out by the Program Committee that every one who is connected with the charitable work of the State is a member of this Convention. And we especially invite the overseers of the various townships to be present and take part in the exercises and discussions. We haven't had the pleasure of having many of the overseers with us in the counties that have the overseer system. This county has that system and we trust they will all be with us.

*Mr. Brumbaugh (Blair):* I am requested by the President of the Ladies' Aid Society to say that the ladies would like to meet the Williamsport ladies who are engaged in charitable work, as well as those from the different townships.

*Mrs. W. P. Price:* And we invite the officers of any institution interested in child-care, or in the care of women, to attend our meeting to-morrow afternoon and in the evening.

After singing the Doxology, the Convention adjourned until two P. M.

## AFTERNOON SESSION.

The Convention was called to order at two o'clock by President Colborn.

Miss Ada Bedford, of Williamsport, sang "No bread to-day," very sweetly, and displayed a remarkably strong voice for a child of her years, and was obliged to respond to an encore.

Rev. Mr. Graff, of Williamsport, offered prayer.

The chair appointed the following committees :

*On Officers* :—W. J. Glenn, Allegheny ; J. W. Buyers, Mercer ; J. S. Strine, Lancaster ; Raphael Kite, Cambria ; Samuel Wick-ersham, Chester.

*On Auditing of Accounts* :—C. B. Swisher, Chester ; O. B. McKnight, Luzerne ; G. M. Shillito, Franklin.

*On Finances* :—D. S. Brumbaugh, Blair ; Charles Lawrence, Philadelphia ; B. E. Riblett, Erie ; J. C. Miller, Somerset ; W. D. Reamer, Westmoreland.

*On Reports of Counties* :—Charles Snyder, Philadelphia ; Mrs. L. B. Walton, Chester ; Mrs. Sue Williard, Indiana ; D. W. Miller, Williamsport ; Wm. McKennan, Washington.

*On Resolutions* :—Dr. J. W. Walk, Philadelphia ; Dr. Henry W. Wetherill, Philadelphia ; Thomas Armstrong, Bedford ; Mrs. B. Richards, Venango ; Dr. C. D. Wilkins, Pittsburgh ; J. Sharp Wilson, Beaver.

*On Place* :—J. D. Carr, Fayette ; J. R. Burgy, Montgomery ; Mrs. J. L. Anderson, Allegheny ; Dr. Z. C. Myers, York ; Peter C. Stock, Adams.

Dr. Wetherill, Secretary of the Committee on Lunacy, delivered the following address :

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THE STATE ASYLUM FOR THE CHRONIC INSANE AT WERNERSVILLE, PA.

*Members of the Association of Directors of the Poor, of Pennsylvania: Ladies and Gentlemen:—*

By the kind invitation of your Society I have the honor of appearing before you to-day to speak briefly upon the subject of the State Asylum for the Chronic Insane, at Wernersville, Pennsylvania; the object and purposes for which it was founded and the sources from which its population is to be drafted. Before so doing, I desire to thank you for this opportunity, though fully sensible of the fact that there are others who could have better improved it than I can hope to do.

The motives which influenced the Committee on Lunacy to recommend to the Board of Public Charities, of Pennsylvania, the asylum plan for the separate care and treatment of the *chronic*, indigent insane were as follows:

The seriously overcrowded condition of the State hospitals.

The fact that such overcrowding prevented proper, necessary classification of patients.

That the majority of State hospital patients were chronics; the larger number of whom were quiet, harmless, able-bodied, and did not require nor receive active medical treatment nor special *hospital* care.

It was considered expedient that the increased accommodation to be provided should be a State *asylum*, because it was thought that the existing five State hospitals, when relieved of their able-bodied, quiet chronics, would afford amply sufficient *hospital* accommodation for some years to come, for the acute, curable or improvable insane, as well as for those of all classes who were turbulent, troublesome, dangerous, feeble, bed-ridden, and who required distinctively hospital attention and treatment.

It further appeared that, if space was made in the hospital by the removal and segregation of certain of the chronic class, the early admission of acute, curable or improvable cases might be facilitated, with the prospect of better ultimate results in the cure and relief of insanity.

The presence of chronics in the State hospitals, in large numbers, tended to an increased *production* of chronics, by preventing, or interfering with classification, discipline, general comfort, proper administration and special, individual medical and hygienic treatment. Under the then existing plan, all forms and conditions of mental disorder, disease and deterioration, acute and chronic were crowded into the same hospital wards, to their



mutual detriment and discomfort, and to the dispersion of earnest medical effort for their cure, or relief; while all the patients were maintained at the same rate or cost of maintenance, which, while not excessive as applied to acute cases and others requiring active nursing and medical treatment, was unnecessarily expensive as applied to the large excess of quiet, able-bodied chronics who could be usefully employed.

The theory then formulated proposed the segregation of the latter into an asylum, which should be substantially, but comparatively inexpensively built, of plain design and adapted to comfortable maintenance and occupation rather than to hospital purposes.

This involved the congregate dormitory plan of sleeping, the associate refectory for eating and the collective assemblage of the inmates in day-rooms and work-shops. One of the essential features of the plan was the regular, systematic employment of chronic patients in ward work, domestic duties, farming, gardening, etc., as well as their training in such trades and manufactures as were found suitable for their benefit and better contentment, as well as to render them self-supporting to the extent of their ability.

These, and other considerations, being approved, the Board of Public Charities recommended to the Legislature of 1891 the founding of a State asylum for indigent, chronic insane and presented a bill which passed the Legislature with but little alteration or amendment except as to appropriation, and received the Governor's signature on June 22, 1891.

This statute is No. 307, of the Pamphlet Laws of Pennsylvania for 1891, page 379, and is entitled "An Act to provide for the selection of a site and the erection of a State asylum for the chronic insane, to be called the State Asylum for the Chronic Insane of Pennsylvania, and making an appropriation therefor."

Section 1 provides that the Governor shall appoint five commissioners, who shall serve without compensation during the fulfilment of their duties under this Act. In pursuance of this authority Governor Pattison nominated and appointed the Commission, as follows: Wharton Barker and Henry M. Dechert, of Philadelphia; Dr. John Curwen, of Warren; John M. Reynolds, of Bedford, and John B. Storm, of Stroudsburg. After a brief term of service, Dr. John Curwen resigned and the Governor appointed Dr. Alice Bennett, of the Norristown State Hospital, to fill the vacancy. Since then there has been no change in the personnel of the Commission.

Section 2 directs the Commission to select, within four months of their date of appointment, a tract of land, or site of not less

than 500 acres in extent, so located as to be conveniently accessible from the State Hospitals. After thorough inspection of many more or less eligible localities, the Commission chose the site near Wernersville, Berks county, which was approved in writing by the Governor and the Board of Public Charities, as prescribed by law. This tract conforms with the requirements: it comprises over 540 acres, is arable, well watered and drained, is eminently healthful and accessible by rail from the State Hospitals.

In compliance with sections 4, 5, and 6, plans were prepared and submitted by the Commission (whose architects are Messrs. Rankin & Kellogg, of Philadelphia) to the Board of Public Charities, which were duly approved, after various amendments and alterations had been mutually adopted.

The requirements are that "the buildings shall be of the best design for the construction of such institution, and without expensive architectural adornment or unduly large or costly administrative accommodations, and no change shall be made in said plans of construction without the consent of the Board of Public Charities," and all this "provided, that the total cost of said buildings and grounds shall not exceed the sum of \$500,000," which sum "or so much thereof as may be necessary," the Act specifically appropriates, "to be drawn from the Treasury, as the same may be required, on warrants drawn by the Auditor General in the usual manner, vouchers or statements to be furnished, approved by the secretary of the Board of Public Charities, before any warrant is issued." The work of construction has progressed and the payments have been made accordingly.

It is further enacted that, upon the acquisition of the land, the commissioners shall, "as soon as temporary quarters can be provided, transfer 20 able-bodied, harmless, chronic insane from each of the State hospitals," for labor upon the grounds and buildings. This recognizes and enforces the industrial theory of the asylum plan of care, in accordance with which the Commission has adapted certain substantial farm buildings which were on the site, for the temporary accommodation of 130 patients transferred thereto from the five State hospitals; these, in charge of a steward, a matron and attendants, have been aiding in the work of construction and general preparation.

The Act requires the completion of the asylum within three years from the date of its passage, and also that report must be made to the Board of Public Charities, upon the amounts expended and the progress of the work, semi-annually, or oftener, if required by the Board. Upon the completion of the asylum, the commissioners are to surrender it to a board of nine trustees, to be appointed by the Governor, with the advice and consent of

the Senate. These are to serve without compensation and will be endowed with the rights and powers usual to such bodies; shall manage and direct the asylum affairs and enact all rules for its government not inconsistent with law.

"Of the trustees first appointed, three shall serve for one year, three for two years, and three for three years, and at the expiration of the respective periods the vacancies shall be filled by the Governor, by the appointment for three years as hereinbefore provided, and should any vacancy occur by death or resignation or otherwise of any trustee, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment as aforesaid for the unexpired term of such manager."

The trustees are to appoint a medical superintendent, who shall have sole and entire charge of the institution, both professional and otherwise; he shall engage "such and so many assistants, attendants and employes" as the trustees may deem necessary. In his absence or disability, the next ranking medical officer shall perform his duties. It will be an organization with *one head*. Nothing in the Act provides specially for the appointment of one or more female assistant physicians; but her, or their, appointment would not be inconsistent with any of its provisions. At this time the women patients in four out of our five State hospitals enjoy the advantages of female medical attention, *which is their right*. Personal hospital experience in women's wards fully convinced me, years ago, of the necessity for such special service, and it is hoped and believed that the chronic female insane in Wernersville Asylum will not be denied that opportunity.

The superintendent shall appoint, with the trustees' approval, a steward, who shall have charge, under his (the superintendent's) direction, of the employment of the patients and the production, purchase and distribution of all supplies. The salaries of the superintendent, assistant physicians and all others engaged for employment shall be fixed by the Board of Trustees.

Section 14 directs the trustees, as early as practicable after the establishment of the asylum, to furnish and equip workshops for the employment of the insane patients, and that they be steadily engaged otherwise in the work of the house, farm, gardens, grounds, or in any useful labor to which the superintendent may assign them. "Said trustees shall cause to be employed skillful foremen and forewomen to secure the safe and economical employment of the largest possible number of the asylum, for the purpose of enabling said inmates to contribute, to the extent of their ability, to the cost of their maintenance."

These provisions fully establish, in this State, the principle that labor, work, steady, regular employment is essential to the comfort and well-being of the able-bodied insane and that, either



as a medical or hygienic measure, or as a public economy, it is right and proper for those indigent insane who can work to be made to do so; that each available indigent, chronic patient should give his modicum of useful labor in return for his cost of support.

In order to extend the forms of work beyond those usually pursued in the State hospitals and to fix the economic principle of asylum care upon a firm basis, something analogous to a trade school is to be established, in which patients, instructed by competent foremen and forewomen, shall learn to manufacture a variety of useful, salable articles, or receive practical tuition in such handicrafts as may be necessary to the maintenance and repair of the institution. It has been urged against the ultimate economy of this plan, that the inmates of the asylum will be largely drafted from the working contingent of the State hospitals, and that in consequence, the latter will be obliged to engage so many additional employes as to exceed all profit earned in asylum industry. This objection seems plausible, but it is fallacious. It might be true in the event of utter failure of the industrial plan of the asylum; but if its success, or even partial success, is attained, the ultimate economy will be realized.

Drafting most of the asylum population, 800, from the five State hospitals will not begin to exhaust their working contingent. By the official returns received from these institutions on September 30, 1892, 2,722 insane patients were employed usefully. Allowing for a moderate number of transfers of chronics to Wernersville from the County homes, the asylum would take from the State hospitals the 722 working chronics and leave a respectable balance of 2,000 industrious chronics, hard at work in the State hospitals.

Better organized effort than it has ever been possible to apply to labor in the State hospitals, backed by instruction, supervision, special machinery and appliances will be at the command of the Wernersville authorities, under which the ultimate economy of the asylum, as compared with the hospital industrial plan should certainly be fully realized.

One of the main objects in the separate care of chronics is to neutralize, as far as possible, the tendency of our State hospitals to lose their distinctive "hospital" or curative character and lapse into asylums containing a sprinkling of acute cases.

The economy of the Wernersville plant should prove so great that the State Treasury should not feel increased cost from any source incident to the best care and hospital treatment of the indigent insane.

The Act declares that the title of the institution is "The State Asylum for the Chronic Insane of Pennsylvania," and that it



“shall be entirely and specially devoted to the reception, detention, care and treatment of the chronic insane.” This class including any indigent patient who has been insane for one full year, or longer. The term “chronic” is to a certain extent conventional; there are a moderate number of cases who recover their reason after insanity has persisted for a year and there are still a greater number who improve considerably, and who may no longer require institution detention and treatment, after that period. The asylum is not, therefore, necessarily a place for those who are hopelessly disordered in mind: insanity continuing for a year is conveniently defined as chronic; but is not necessarily permanent.

Sections 11 and 12 of the Act define the means by which chronic insane shall be brought to the asylum and how they may be returned to the place of their original commitment; they provide “that no insane person shall be received, cared for or detained in said asylum except such as shall be transferred from the State hospitals and from the almshouses and poorhouses of the several counties and townships of the State, which transfers shall be made only under authority and by permission of the Board of Public Charities; and that the rights which now reside in the courts of this Commonwealth as to the commitment of the insane to State hospitals, almshouses, and poorhouses, shall not apply to the asylum herein named and established.” That “the Board of Public Charities shall have power and authority to transfer such chronic indigent insane from said State hospitals, almshouses and poorhouses, in the counties and townships aforesaid, to said asylum, or may return such chronic insane to said State hospitals, almshouses and poorhouses, when they may deem necessary and proper, without an order from the court under whose authority and direction the said insane persons have been committed to said State hospitals and almshouses and poorhouses.” In other words, the asylum is *not* to be a place of original commitment neither by Commissioners, nor Directors or Overseers of the poor, nor by order of court. An indigent insane person, regularly committed to some other institution, complying with the conventional term “chronic” may be transferred from such institution to the asylum, or from there transferred back to the place from whence he or she came, at the sole discretion and by the order of the Board of Public Charities. Further, if any *non-criminal* indigent insane person be committed to any State hospital, almshouse or poorhouse by order of the court, and comes under the definition “chronic” he or she may be transferred to the asylum, or re-transferred from thence to the place of regular commitment, by the Board of Public Charities. The courts

have no jurisdiction over this asylum in committing or transferring or in preventing transfer or re-transfer.

Nothing in this Act should be construed as interfering with the power of the courts to commit insane convicts and criminal lunatics to State Hospitals for the Insane and to secure their continuous safe detention therein until discharged by the same authority.

The question has been asked: How and to what extent are the various almshouses and poorhouses of the State to be relieved, in the opening of this chronic asylum, and what, if any, special sections of the State are to be directly benefited by transfers of chronics? In reply, I would say that the Act recognizes no special locality; but is designed to relieve all sections of the State. Although the almshouses and poorhouses, as well as the State hospitals, are specially mentioned in the law, as being localities from which chronic insane shall be transferred, yet in no place does it provide *when* such county transfers must be made, nor does it prescribe what *proportion* of transfers shall be made directly from county institutions. The Legislature and the Governor were well informed as to the population, capacity and local requirements for relief of each county institution containing insane, as well as the far more pressing needs of the State hospitals, before this bill was presented. They recognized clearly that one additional institution, however planned, of the capacity of 800 patients would utterly fail to accommodate all the chronic, able-bodied insane, in all the many institutions of Pennsylvania, because the returns for that year, from the State hospitals alone, showed the presence of 3,726 patients of the chronic class.

For that reason, and because the Board of Public Charities and its Committee on Lunacy knew best how to apply the partial relief to a serious congestion, to be afforded by the Wernersville Asylum, this Act was so drawn as to leave the transfer power absolutely at the discretion of the Board, merely naming the classes of institutions from which transfers should be made. As the object of the Act was not to benefit any given locality; but to achieve the greatest good to *all classes* of the indigent insane, the Board of Public Charities will commence the work of relief, where the demand for it is most urgent, namely in the State hospitals, and, in these, in proportion to their relative congestion, or over-population by chronic cases.

These hospitals demand space for the accommodation and treatment of acute, curable or relievable patients, and room for those who require nursing and constant personal attention.

The removal to Wernersville of 800 chronics will afford space for the transfer from County Homes to the State Hospitals of

some acute, or otherwise urgent cases who require special hospital care.

When, by transfers, the extreme congestion of the State Hospital is relieved, the Board of Public Charities will turn to the County Homes and do likewise, beginning where the local pressure is greatest, without regard to locality.

Section 15 of the Act provides that the cost of the care and detention of chronics in this asylum, shall not exceed the sum of \$2.50 per week, per patient, including clothing, "one dollar thereof chargeable upon and paid by the several counties and poor districts from which the said insane are received; but the State shall not be required to pay more than the remainder of the actual cost of maintenance in said institution, after said payment by said counties, and should any surplus remain, annually, after the cost of maintaining said patients, as aforesaid, has been ascertained, the same shall be returned to the Commonwealth."

This wording is very explicit; but I have been asked the following question: The directors of poor send an indigent insane patient to the State Hospital and pay, as usual, for his maintenance the fixed, weekly, county rate of \$1.75; the patient becomes chronic, is able-bodied and harmless and is transferred to Wernersville Asylum. The rate to be paid by the county, for him, now changes to \$1.00 per week. In case that patient has to be re-transferred back to the State Hospital, at what rate is he to be paid for therein, \$1.00 or \$1.75? In reply, I hold the meaning of the Act to be, that the weekly rate of \$1.00 is to be paid by the county *while* the patient remains in the Wernersville Asylum; if he is transferred back to the State Hospital, no matter for how brief a period, his cost of maintenance becomes \$1.75 per week to his county. The State Treasury payment for the balance of his cost of maintenance varies likewise, in accordance to whether he is in the asylum or in the hospital.

The patient's *chronicity* does not *alone* determine that his expenses to his county shall be \$1.00 per week; it is decided by his general eligibility for asylum care *after* the Board of Public Charities has transferred him thereto; while he remains there and continues eligible for asylum care his rate of maintenance is \$1.00 per week to his county; if, or when, he ceases to be thus eligible, the Board transfers him back to the State hospital for special hospital treatment and care, when his county charge reverts to \$1.75 per week. It must also be remembered that the Board of Public Charities may transfer back to any county home any indigent chronic insane patient whom it had previously transferred to Wernersville Asylum from such home or poorhouse.

It is provided in Section 16 that "the said trustees (of the asy-



lum) shall make, under oath, by their president or treasurer, a quarterly report to the Auditor General of the State and to the Board of Public Charities, containing an itemized statement of the expenses of the institution during the previous quarter, and unless such itemized report is made and approved by the Board of Public Charities, Auditor General and State Treasurer, the State Treasurer is hereby directed not to pay any more money to said institution until such report is made and approved as aforesaid."

The last clause of the Act provides that "the Governor, judges of the several courts of record of the Commonwealth, members of the Legislature and members of the Board of Public Charities shall be *ex-officio* visitors of said asylum."

I have thus commented upon or referred to the entire Act for the information of those who may not have had the opportunity for its careful perusal, and because certain members of your Association had expressed a desire to hear recited all of its essential provisions. When the asylum is completed and in operation its future conduct is to be in conformity with the Act which created it, with the Lunacy Law of May 8, 1883, and with its legalized rules and regulations as far as they apply. Such control and supervision as is vested in said enactments, in the Board of Public Charities and the Committee on Lunacy, will be exercised as in the other "houses or places where more than one lunatic is detained for care and treatment."

This will involve, of course, the regular visitation of the institution and its inmates by the Board and Committee and by their secretaries, reports statistical, financial and otherwise, as well as explicit returns of movements of population, as they occur, such as transfers to and from the asylum, discharges, deaths, elopements, accidents, etc., and the results of treatment and care. Special attention will be given to the tabulated results of the industrial plan of care, as that is, to a certain extent, experimental in this State, though it has elsewhere proved practicable and economical.

In order to enable the trustees to start the State Asylum for Chronics, when the Commissioners turn over the same to them completed, the Legislature of 1893 passed a separate Act, presented by the Board of Public Charities, the first section of which specifically appropriates the sum of \$50,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to the trustees, when appointed, for furnishing, equipping and insuring the institution. When the buildings are thus rendered ready for occupancy, the second section of this Act appropriates, also to the trustees, the sum of \$5,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary, to defray the expense incident



to transferring chronic insane thereto from the State hospitals and other institutions.

Any unexpended balance which may remain after the fulfillment of these provisions will revert to the State treasury. The second section contemplates *only* the payment of transfer charges of a sufficient number of patients to fill the asylum. *Subsequent* charges for transfer could not be defrayed from any balance remaining; it is presumed that such and all subsequent expenses for transfer would be defrayed out of the general appropriation Act for the maintenance of the indigent insane.

The general appropriation Act for the maintenance of the indigent insane provides for the support of the inmates of the asylum, as well as for the other institutions, for the biennial period commencing June 1, 1893.

In conclusion, I have been asked to state when the Wernersville Asylum will be finished, and when, after being committed to the trustees, it will be ready for occupancy.

The Act prescribes that the buildings shall be completed within three years from the date of its passage. The Act was approved by Governor Pattison on June 22, 1891. It seems safe to predict that the asylum will be in the hands of the trustees before June, 1894. The Commission hope to have it ready by March, 1894. As is rather the rule in the fulfillment of such contracts, various vexatious and unforeseen contingencies have arisen which have hampered the Commission in their efforts to complete the asylum within the present year.

With funds at hand available for furnishing and equipping the asylum and for the transfer of patients thereto, there appears now to be no obstacle to prevent the trustees from having the institution peopled and running smoothly within six months after they assume their trust.

The future requirements of the indigent insane in this State will be recognized and provided for by your representatives in the Legislature in the same humane, liberal, but conservative, spirit which has marked the public care of these in the past. It devolves upon those who have been assigned the responsible task of erecting these buildings to prove, in their future stability and adaptability to special purposes, the competency of a delegation of representative citizens to carry out the wishes of the people. It will become the duty of the Board of Trustees to insure the success of the special plan for the separate care of the indigent, chronic insane upon an industrial and economical basis, as designated in this Act, and to place the State Asylum for the Chronic Insane in the front rank of those great public institutions founded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

*Dr. Wetherill:* The Act says "20 patients" from each of the State hospitals, making a total of 100. There are now a total of 130 in Wernersville, but the excess are women patients. They do all the domestic and other work that women could do for male patients: washing and housework, etc.

*Mr. Lawrence* (Philadelphia): In the institution I have the honor to represent (Blockley), we have about 3,100 inmates now, among which are 1,050 insane people.

The law of Pennsylvania recognized the fact, after long consideration, that the insane should be the wards of the State. State hospitals for that class of people were established and have been very successfully carried on. At first at the entire expense of the counties, afterwards amended so that the State would defray half the expense and the counties the other half. Or, in other words, the State said to the counties: "We recognize the fact that the insane portion of your population should be provided for by the State and County combined, and we will defray one-half the expense of maintenance and you the other half." And that was just.

But there were fifty-two counties in the Commonwealth that didn't have a case of insanity within their own county homes, but all were placed in the State asylums at one-half cost to the counties and one-half to the State.

Philadelphia says the same. She says to the State: "You agreed to maintain one-half of the people afflicted with insanity:" or, in other words, "You agreed to pay one-half the cost of maintenance. We have 2,300! We can take but about 1,200 and you must look out for the others yourself." If the State is going to pay one-half the expense of maintaining the insane in some counties, justice demands that they should pay one-half the expense in all counties. (Applause.)

Feeling that way, I called the attention of the Department of Charities and Correction of the city of Philadelphia to the fact. I found that outside of State hospitals in the State of Pennsylvania there weren't over 1,700 insane people supported; out of that 1,700 the county of Philadelphia alone supported more than 1,000, much more than the other counties combined.

As an act of justice, a communication was sent to the Mayor of Philadelphia calling his attention to the fact. He sent a communication to the Select and Common Councils, and a bill was prepared to overcome the difficulty and render exact justice to all the counties.

The Select and Common Councils of Philadelphia, by unanimous vote, requested the legislature to pass the Act referred to. I took that Act to Harrisburg. It was too late to get it on the calendar of the House bills; I had it presented by a Senator, and that Act passed both the Senate and House of Representatives, practically unanimously.

I have a copy of the amended Act here, and I will read it and ask any fair-minded man or woman to point out one word that is not exact justice to every taxpayer of the State.

#### AN ACT,

*To provide for the support of the indigent insane in certain counties or cities in this Commonwealth.*

SECTION 1. Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, that when the proper authorities of any city or county in this Commonwealth provide suitable accommodations for the support of indigent insane persons which said accommodations are approved by the State Board of Public Charities, said city or county shall be entitled to have maintained in the State Hospital for the Insane for the proper district free of cost to such city or county, as many indigent insane persons as are furnished accommodations by such city or county, and in all cases where a city or county shall support a greater number of such persons in its local hospital or almshouse than are being treated in the State Hospital from such city or county the State shall pay to such city or county one-half of the cost of maintaining such additional number.

SEC. 2. That the Secretary of the State Board of Public Charities is hereby directed to certify the Auditor General quarterly the number of indigent insane persons supported by any such city or county as hereinbefore provided, and the number of indigent insane persons in the State Hospital for the insane of the proper district who are entitled to maintenance free of cost aforesaid.

SEC. 3. That the Auditor General upon the certification of the Secretary of the State Board of Public Charities, as hereinbefore provided, be directed to draw his warrant upon the State Treasurer in favor of the trustees of the State Hospital for the Insane wherein such indigent insane persons are maintained, in payment of the sum of one dollar and



seventy-five cents per week for each indigent insane person subject to the provisions of this Act, and in all cases where a greater number of such insane persons are treated in a local hospital, as aforesaid, than in the State Hospital, he shall draw his warrant in favor of the proper officer of such city or county for a like sum per week for each such insane person supported in such local hospital in excess of the number treated in the State Hospital from such city or county. *Provided*, that the said payment shall be a charge upon the general annual appropriation for the support of the indigent insane.

SEC. 4. That all Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed.

SEC. 5. That this Act shall take effect upon the first day of June, Anno Domini one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three.

After the bill passed the Senate and House and was in the hands of the Governor of this Commonwealth, a member of our Board of Charities and Corrections of Philadelphia called upon his Excellency the Governor to see about his approving the bill, and the Governor told him he couldn't see his way clear to approve it. It looked like an encouragement, to him, for the counties to withdraw their insane from the State hospitals, and there should be something in it to show that it was only a temporary measure until such time as the State could provide for all of the insane.

This was near the close of the session, and it was very risky to go to the Legislature to ask to have a resolution of any kind put forth, because it required a unanimous vote, but to satisfy the Governor and remove all objection on his part, the risk was taken. A resolution was introduced in the House withdrawing this bill for the purpose of amendment, to overcome the objections of the Governor, and the bill was amended as I have just read it, and after the Legislature adjourned, when there was no time to pass it over his veto, the Governor of this State (at whose request that amendment was offered) vetoed that bill. The city of Philadelphia supports 1,050 insane in their almshouse without one iota of assistance from the State. The city of Philadelphia pays to the State hospitals \$91 a year for every insane person in those institutions from that county. It made a difference to the city of Philadelphia of \$95,000 a year. And that is the justice as administered by the present executive of this Commonwealth.

I leave it to you. I desire to say nothing more on the subject.



I think it is too palpable to allow me to enter into a discussion here, for fear I might say something that would be considered disrespectful to the chief executive of the State of Pennsylvania.

*Mr. Biddle, Agent of Board of Public Charities (Philadelphia):* In addition to what my friend from Philadelphia has said, there is another chapter which he didn't relate.

In 1891 I visited the late Chief of the Department of Charities Pittsburgh—a gentleman who I am sorry to think will not now be with us, Capt. R. C. Elliott, for there was no abler man in the Department of Charities than he. I had gone over the Pittsburgh City Farm with him and Mr. Linderman, and I was struck with the wonderful facility possessed there in the care of a certain number of insane. There the entire laundry work of the institution is done by the female insane. They have but 300 there, 150 of whom are women. They all have occupation of some kind, and it impressed me how much work could be done by them. Their minds carried away from their own individual cases, and how systematic everything could be made. I asked Mr. Elliott then how much it cost them to run their insane department, and he said \$2.25 a week, while those we send to Dixmont we only have to pay \$1.75, and I think it is wrong, for we should not be called upon to pay for those we keep at home when under the law we are entitled to send them all. I asked him how he would feel if the State would pay, not the same as the city of Pittsburgh was paying, \$1.75—if they were to pay say half of it, or \$1.25 of it, leaving the city to pay a dollar; it would be then a saving both to the State and city; the State would pay \$1.25 and the city \$1.00, while at Dixmont the State would pay \$2.00 and the city \$1.75. “He says: “We have no difficulty whatever in caring for the insane as you see them here. They are happy, and all occupied, and we are perfectly willing to keep them. But we feel it is an injustice to make the city pay it all.”

I went back then to our Board, and secured, before the meeting of the Legislature in 1891, a bill to pay to the cities and counties, where such provision was made as Mr. Lawrence alludes to, \$1.25 for the care of the insane. That bill went unanimously

through the Senate and House. Mr. Roney, the predecessor of Mr. Lawrence, was then in charge of Blockley, and when the matter was presented to him he most cordially endorsed it and went to Harrisburg and used influence to make it familiar to the Legislature. That bill suffered the same fate as the last bill.

*Mr. Lawrence:* By the same man.

*Mr. Biddle:* I am politically on the same side of the fence as Mr. Lawrence, but it is not a political matter at all. I have felt—and I have talked over the matter with the Governor on several occasions—I don't think he has ever fully realized the situation, and I feel certain that if he did he would have treated the bill differently, and as the old adage is, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again," and I hope Mr. Lawrence will join with the Board of Charities, for they had, before he took it up, passed a resolution that was transmitted to the Legislature and Governor, strongly urging the passage of this Act by which the counties which maintained their insane would receive a part of the expense so as to equalize the matter over the State.

I am hopeful that if this Convention will heartily join with us there will be no difficulty. The Legislature on either occasion did not object to it, and I think that Act will still be on our statute books as a law of Pennsylvania. I hope Mr. Lawrence will continue in the position he so well adorns now.

*Mr. Lawrence:* I am more than gratified to hear the gentleman's remarks. I had probably done an injustice to the Governor of this State. If I have I want to withdraw it. I had supposed that a man who had been connected so long with the church, and so long with charities and in public positions, had had a chance of knowing that the Department of Charities and Corrections of Philadelphia had requested the Mayor to take action on this matter; knew that the Mayor had sent a special message to the Councils of Philadelphia; knew that the Councils of Philadelphia had passed a resolution requesting the Legislature to pass the Act; knew that the Legislature had passed it unanimously; but as he hadn't risen up to the occasion—didn't understand the

question—he is excusable for vetoing it, and I hope you will have no hard feelings towards him. (Laughter.)

There is another point that gratifies me at the remarks of my friend Biddle when he refers to the way the insane are treated in the county almshouses. He speaks particularly of Allegheny county. The same encomiums will apply to Philadelphia county.

*Mr. Biddle:* Undoubtedly.

*Mr. Lawrence:* What gratifies me the most is that these counties for \$2.25 a week can support these insane people equally as well as they can be supported in the State hospitals for \$3.75 a week. I had been in favor of having the State take care of all the insane. I think it is the proper thing to be done. I think the insane are the wards of the State. The insane in Blockley Almshouse are not residents of Philadelphia alone; we get them from all portions of this country: not alone of this country but of the world. They arrive at our walls with unpronounceable names, dumped on the streets and put into the patrol wagons and brought there for us to take care of, and we do it and it don't cost the State one cent. We can look at the Governor of this Commonwealth without a downcast eye, for we don't feel that we have wronged the State one cent for their support.

I am gratified for several reasons: Mr. Biddle refers to the bill he introduced. That was true; it was to pay \$1.25 a week. This bill was amended to meet the objection of the Governor, and that was that they should pay one-half the cost of maintenance in the county hospitals. Exact justice was being meted out, and I am very glad to know that when we look around the Commonwealth, we take the Legislature, the Councilmen, the Department of Charities and Correction, the Mayors, the citizens in general, and the only man in the State of Pennsylvania to-day who opposed that bill was the Governor of the Commonwealth. (Laughter and applause.)

*Dr. Walk, (Philadelphia.)* It has seemed to me always as to Captain Lawrence, that the insane ought to be wards of the State. In that respect I most heartily agree with the opinion of the Governor of the Commonwealth; but the State hasn't

the facilities for taking care of all the insane to-day. We cannot place all the insane from my county in the South Eastern District Hospital for the Insane at Norristown; there isn't room. You cannot put 3,000 people in a place designed for 1,200; and consequently we have the insane and cannot remove them to a State hospital. Practically the same thing exists in regard to the other counties. Some of them have empty buildings on the place which have been emptied to put the insane in State hospitals and they could be used now to relieve the State hospitals.

The history of this present bill during the last year is very soon told. It was drawn by Captain Lawrence. In its original form it was presented by him to the Department of Charities and Correction of the County of Philadelphia. That department appointed a committee to consider the question, and ultimately decided to urge the passage of this bill, somewhat modified. Some years ago the idea was to refund \$1.75, but that was objected to, that this would be more than half the cost in the counties, as for some reason the counties could keep the insane cheaper than the Commonwealth could—\$2.25 in the counties and \$2.75 in the State hospitals—and the bill was amended to make it one-half of the cost. When it was sent to Harrisburg and introduced in the Senate by Senator Thomas, of one of the Philadelphia Senatorial Districts, a gentleman from Allegheny County objected because their local insane hospitals were under the municipal control. The bill, with the consent of its authors, was then changed to say that: "When the proper authorities of any city or county," etc., then this action should be taken. I went to Harrisburg three or four times during the session. The bill passed the Senate and came to the House and passed the House. It was sent to the Governor. There was some objection raised to it on account of one or two slight features, and it was recalled by resolution of the House and Senate. From the Governor it was re-committed and those features eliminated. It was changed as far as we knew how to change it to meet every opinion in the Executive Department of the Commonwealth, and in that for it passed both houses. I carried the bill, myself, to the Executive Office and read it there. Perhaps I shouldn't say what



occurred in that meeting, but I will say this ; that I went to my home fully assured and confident, absolutely certain that the bill would receive the executive approval. Well, I was wrong. It didn't get it ; that is all. (Laughter.)

*Mr. McGonnigle:* I will ask Dr. Walk to explain : He said there were certain buildings for the accommodation of the insane and that they had been removed into the hospitals, and now if they could be put back into those buildings again the hospitals wouldn't be so crowded. Now it seems to me that is going a long way around to reach a point. In the first place why weren't those buildings allowed to be used for the care of the insane if they were built for that, and if they are standing idle what is the reason ?

*Dr. Walk:* I didn't speak from my knowledge, but my understanding, from a member of the State Board of Charities. I think in Berks and Lancaster there are buildings suitable for the care of the insane, from which they were removed a few years ago. After the State hospitals became too full it was thought that those places could be utilized again. A few years ago I think there was an effort made to empty the counties of the insane altogether, and that went on until the State hospitals were overcrowded.

*Mr. Biddle:* That is so.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Why are they not taken out of the hospitals now and put into these buildings ?

*Mr. Biddle:* The reply is an easy one. You all know that last winter the State hospitals were so overcrowded that the hospital at Harrisburg and the hospital at Danville, under the advice of the Attorney General, passed resolutions that they would receive no more insane into their wards, acute or chronic ; that they couldn't safely accommodate more than they had then. The Wernersville hospital should have been finished, under the original contract, before this. That would have taken a number. The State Board of Charities, acting under the Act passed in 1887

authorizing it—it was the only Act up to that time that did authorize it—to remove from State hospitals to county homes, the State Board of Charities went carefully over the institutions in the State where the accommodations were such that they could accommodate that mild class of chronic insane, such as you find in the two large dormitory buildings at Harrisburg, in which they sleep one hundred and fifty without more than one or two attendants—those who are cleanly in their habits and cannot be benefited by medical treatment, and who do in other institutions the work of the institution. Knowing that those patients were filling the wards of the hospitals and would be an addition to the working force of many of these institutions, we carefully went over the counties in which there were such buildings. We then addressed a communication to the superintendents of the hospitals, asking them to furnish us with the names of such quiet, chronic patients, who were neither violent or dangerous, who could not be benefited by medical treatment and were cleanly in their habits, so as not to be an additional charge to the superintendents. We received such a list.

In Berks county there are two two-story brick houses that are as good as any buildings can be made ; they have steam heat, but have been closed for a number of years, and would require some money spent for paint, etc. We addressed a communication requesting those directors to have those buildings put in order so as to be able to receive the names we had received, telling them the number and who they were—from the Harrisburg hospital.

In reply to that we got a positive statement that Berks county would receive none back. At that moment we were requested to go to Harrisburg to meet the Governor and the superintendents of the hospitals. Our Board went. We had a conference with the Governor. We stated that a number of the county institutions were perfectly willing—they had written that they would be willing and glad to take back—but that we had, in Berks and one or two others, met with opposition. The Governor told us that where there was no opposition, and they would receive them back, he would be perfectly willing, under the emergency, to have them taken back, but that he wouldn't assent to have the insane made a foot-ball by which they were to be sent to a county that wasn't

willing to open its doors to receive them. And we were powerless to send them back. We were able to temporarily relieve where they were willing to receive. We have sent back several hundred altogether. But Harrisburg and Dixmont and Danville passed resolutions, after they were relieved, saying they were willing to receive the acute cases, and they are all receiving the acute cases, and we were confident that certain of the districts had accommodations for just that chronic class.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* It seems to me that if any one has been made a football of in this State the insane have. I remember a meeting of this Association where it was reported that a certain county had finished a department in connection with their almshouse, and were willing to receive back fifty or seventy-five insane from the hospital, but the Board of Public Charities wouldn't allow it, and now the Board want them taken back, and they won't take them back. The plan now is that we should have a chronic insane State asylum to take care of the chronic cases.

It seems to me that should be located somewhere where it would be convenient of access from all portions of the State. The question has been asked me by some from the western part of the State how many chronic insane they can expect to have taken from their districts into the Wernersville asylum. A gentleman who is a neighbor of the county that the Wernersville asylum is located in says that he has had notice that he cannot expect relief for any from his county there. Then where is the pressure to be relieved? It isn't going to help us across the mountains and in the western part of the State if it won't help those next door.

It seems to me we ought to know if the Wernersville asylum is to be large enough to take care of some from the western part of the State, or only from the eastern part of the State.

*Mr. Long (Luzerne Co.):* I have heard our former speakers speaking very hard against the Governor, etc. I will inform this Association what they don't know, hardly: we haven't a shelter in twenty-one counties for the insane. You can take Lycoming county and down to the State of New York, and not a shelter for one.

*Dr. Wilkin* (Pittsburgh): I have listened with a great deal of interest to Dr. Wetherill's paper. It shows that he is thoroughly acquainted with the matter. It is objected to by some that this asylum is in the eastern part of the State. It is true we cannot distribute that one asylum all over the State, but there may come a time when it will be necessary to build an asylum of that character in the western part of the State. I am satisfied that the State asylums are overcrowded, and that they should be relieved. I am also convinced that to control not only asylums, but any institution, there must be discipline and management. It seems to me that a very wise thing to do would be to separate and classify the insane. Those especially who have become chronic, yet who may be physically able to work, and can do a great deal of work. They should not be in apartments where there are acute insane who don't sleep nights, and keep them from their rest. I think it is a step in the right direction, and I hope that the objections to the Wernersville asylum will not prevail here, in the impression of the Convention generally, because it was not intended to take from any particular part of the State, as I understand it.

*Mr. McGonnigle*: I think that the bill that Mr. Lawrence explained is in accord with our views, and I offer a resolution that we approve the effort of Mr. Lawrence in drawing that bill and take steps to have the same bill presented at the next session of Legislature. (Referred to the Committee on Resolutions.)

*Mr. Snyder* (Oxford and Lower Dublin): The Committee chose a subject for discussion; "The advantage of selecting a site in Venango county for the erection of a school for the feeble minded."

I was instrumental, with others, in getting that bill through the Legislature. You who have been to Elwyn know that the building is overcrowded. It seems to me that the site in Venango county is too far west, and in order to get an expression of the delegates here this subject has been chosen.

*Mr. Carr*: I move that this subject be continued until the morning session. (Agreed to.)



Mr. Snyder presents this question, for discussion : " What provision could there be made through our Legislature to provide a place to take care of tramps, to abandon the nuisance of the public road traffic."

*Mr. Hershey* (Lancaster) : We are annoyed in Lancaster very much, by tramps, and we offered the resolution for discussion, thinking there might be some way provided. Many of them are able-bodied men that can work, but because they are not compelled to, do not. At farm houses they sometimes demand what they want ; and we all know that the men are not always around the houses, and the women will get anything he wants, in order to satisfy him. Will even get a meal for him, and set him at the table, for fear if she refuses him he will do some harm. We think the people of Pennsylvania should take steps to protect our families. These men are no benefit to anyone. They are a nuisance and nothing else.

*Mr. Brumbaugh* (Blair) : In our conventions years ago this seemed to be one of the most prominent questions. I am glad to know this subject is not as vital as it used to be, from the fact that I believe a large number of the counties have found out a method to dispose of tramps. In our county, for the past three or four years we are scarcely annoyed at all. We early provided the rule not to permit any tramp to remain at all at the almshouse unless he was old and feeble, or sick, unless he performed something in the way of cutting wood or breaking stone. You know their disposition. They will loiter around in the neighborhood of the almshouse until night, and then quietly steal in, and of course he will succeed in getting his supper, lodging and breakfast, without giving any adequate return, unless you can find some means to put him at work during the night. That was a question that confronted us. We at once had them do some work at night with a lantern ; work at least two or three hours before they got supper. It wasn't very long until they found out there was no getting along without doing something, and they steered clear of our almshouse.

*Mr. Snyder* : We have had this tramp question before the Convention before, and I would like to say to that gentleman, if

he was here, that he represents a large institution in Philadelphia, but we have in the districts that I represent an institution that has 3,200 inmates ; it is the House of Correction ; we send our tramps there. We are not troubled with tramps. It used to take a large amount of food to feed them, but we shut down entirely on the tramp system. We used to have hundreds of them.

*Mr. Hershey* (Lancaster): The point I want is this: to drive them away from the almshouse is exactly driving them where I say they will land ; we can turn them out, too, but we turn them right back on the road, and that is not the point I want. I want to take steps to take them off the road.

*Mr. Snyder* (Philadelphia): Have a place where you can make them work. You can't make them work on a farm. I have tried to make them cut wood for me but never a stick would they cut ; but in the House of Correction they have to work. Erect places and put them there, and they will soon give you a wide berth.

*Mr. Hershey* (Lancaster): Is everyone in a position to give them work ? Those who give them work a tramp will get away from as soon as he can ; he is going to hunt a place where there is no work to do.

*Mr. Byers* (Mercer): The people of Lancaster county are noted all over the State. The tramps that come to Mercer know of Lancaster county. They know they feed them well. Our people send them to jail a while, and they give us a wide berth. I don't think we have had a dozen tramps this summer. In Lancaster they take too good care of them.

*Mr. Herr* (Lancaster): We tried, several years ago, to make them break stone, but the result was that it cost more to feed them and clothe them, than it did before. The majority of them are from 20 to 40 years old. 1,700 meals we gave them in December, and in January something over. We have from 60 to 75 in a night. They come for supper and breakfast. If we send

them away they go among the farmers, and as Mr. Hershey says, their wives may be in danger. They have done many things in Lancaster that people are afraid of, and we ask that some action may be taken to get them off the road. If we insult them the result is that they burn our buildings down. That is our experience.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* It strikes me as very queer to have Lancaster molested with tramps. In 1876 this Association was first organized to consider especially some method of disposing of tramps; they were more numerous then than now. Our first meeting was held at Altoona. Among those present was a great big man, about six feet six, and would weigh about 225 pounds, from Lancaster—Mr. B. F. Cox, superintendent of the Almshouse—and after we got through talking about tramps, he said: "Send them to Lancaster, and we will take care of them." We all said, "You are just the man we want." He had adopted the plan there of a primitive work house in connection with the almshouse; an enclosure about 20 feet high, built of stone, and every tramp that came along Ben, put in that pen, and made them break stone before he would let them out or give them anything to eat, and no one came back for a second time. We all thought that was the solution of the tramp question. Afterwards I went to Lancaster to see the workhouse, and it struck me it was a very heroic remedy.

*Mr. Strine (Lancaster):* We have the workhouse yet, but we don't use it.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* If we had a system of police protection we could soon solve the question, but take an agricultural county like York or Lancaster, and it is impossible to have it over the whole county. Naturally the tax payers think the almshouse is about the only public institution for them and that they ought to have a certain amount of protection from them there.

• It is true there are men traveling the country looking for honest work, but a great many don't care to get work; they are tramps by nature, and men of that kind should be arrested and punished as vagrants. It is hard for an honest man who is seeking work to suffer.

It strikes me that the wise thing to do is to adopt some uniform regulations among all the almshouses that every tramp that comes will have to do some work for his lodging and food. They come after dark, and say they didn't know they had to work, and they don't want to turn a man out at 8 or 9 o'clock, but it seems to me the superintendent could settle that the next morning. Lock him up and don't let him go till he does something. I have found out that men are tramping who when they came to the almshouse were willing to stay and work rather than to tramp. Such a man, I think, ought to be taken care of. Keep him off the road. A labor test of two or three hours' work, I know in my own experience at home, soon broke them up.

*Mr. Supplee* (Montgomery): We are not troubled with them. Whether it is because we have a "reformed" tramp, or more enlightened, I can't say. We used to have them. Now our county commissioners have purchased some pig iron. The tramps are placed in jail and put to work carrying this pig iron back and forth, and we are not troubled with any tramps. (Laughter.)

*Dr. Myers* (York): Do you pay the constable for arresting the tramp and taking him to jail?

*Mr. Supplee*: Certainly.

*Mr. Myers*: I should think the constables would be out all the time hunting them.

*Mr. Supplee*: You can hardly find one there.

*Mr. Strine* (Lancaster): Our almshouse is in the outskirts of the city of Lancaster, and that is one reason why we are bothered there. They are hardly out of jail before they get to the almshouse.

*Dr. Wilkin* (Pittsburgh): I think the trouble is not so much with the tramp as with the people who feed them. I believe that the tramps are organized. I have been told they have their signs and pass-words, and travel from one end of the land to the other. Now, as long as people will feed them they will keep on tramping.



It is true the American people are kind and religious, and they are afraid if they turn a tramp away in the evening he will die before morning, but it has been demonstrated lately that people can fast fifteen to thirty days and still live, and they can travel until they get to a jail or workhouse and be provided with something to eat. When the people stop feeding them they will say, "Our occupation is gone, and we will have to stop." The people generally don't know that they will not work. They ought to be informed on that subject, and stop feeding them.

*Mr. Miller (Somerset):* If Lancaster feeds them as much as they say, and we could adopt some plan for Dauphin and Lancaster we could break up the tramp question. I was at the Dauphin home about two years ago, and there was sixty-five tramps there that night. The next morning they were asked how many would break stone two hours for breakfast. Thirty-five of them agreed. They broke stone two hours and a half and went to the dining room and were given dry bread and salt and cold water. The stone they sold for fifty cents a cart load, and the steward told me they would exchange hats and coats and come back, and yet he said it didn't pay, but he said he wouldn't turn them out.

*Mr. Hunker:* From the 1st of January, 1892, until our last Convention, at Erie, we kept in our almshouse thirty-one tramps over night, and I issued to them during the fourteen months ending March 1st 170 meals. Since our last convention there has not been a tramp stayed over night in the Allegheny City almshouse. I believe, as has been said here, they get to find you will not keep them. At first it appeared harsh to refuse them, but after having the house polluted once or twice I concluded it was better. And the last tramp that remained there was while I was at the Convention a year ago.

*Mr. Carr (Fayette):* The first Convention of this Association that I attended was in 1885, at Philadelphia, and this question was discussed there, and at every meeting for years afterwards, and finally given up in disgust. We made no progress, and make

none now. It is a question with which each individual county will have to deal as best they can, and I think there is no use of taking up further time in discussing this question.

The Convention was here adjourned until 7:30

### EVENING SESSION.

The Convention was called to order at 7.30 by President Colborn.

The Convention was first entertained by singing by the Seminary Quartette.

Rev. Miller offered prayer.

By request, Mrs. Dr. Koenig sang a German song, and responding to a hearty encore accompanied herself upon the piano in another German song.

*Otto G. Kaupp* (Williamsport): Owing to the fact that part of the districts of Lycoming County had not reported I waited till the last minute in order to frame a report that might be as nearly accurate as we would be able to secure. This I desire to present briefly, for the reason that statistics, in themselves, are rather tame. Other persons will follow in the discussion of this matter, who are thoroughly familiar with the economic principle that we desire to illustrate in the comparison that we desire to draw.

Mr. Kaupp here read the following paper :

The great question as to the proper solution of the poor problem of our country has been, is and will be to ages yet unborn, impossible of satisfactory adjudication to all concerned. The natural wealth of the United States is so diversified, that employment might be given to every laborer, and a fair compensation paid therefore. There are several classes of poor, one of which might be classified as worthy poor, and another as unworthy poor. When misfortune, sickness or accident renders a person who has led an honest and upright career, physically unable to earn a livelihood

for himself, or perhaps those dependent upon him, we feel it our duty to soothe his declining age and render assistance to one less fortunate than we; but when the recipient has been reared in the lap of luxury, having had opportunity and advantage without number, and from his own vicious habits and indiscretion, becomes decrepit and broken in body and mind, we are inclined to be less sympathetic and less generous; yet the law has wisely provided that relief must be granted, and the cause of humanity sustained. The lesson taught the early settlers of America, "that industry and self-reliance are the surest guarantee to fortune," has been entirely discarded by thousands, and the heritage left by our pioneer fathers has fallen to those who are willing to brave the tempestuous sea of life and put forth their utmost effort to succeed in that which they undertake; while others have applied themselves to such pursuits as those for which they are entirely unfitted, thus leaving countless numbers to mourn and lament along the highway of success. It is true that when you are a dependent upon charity, when the frosts of many winters have whitened your hair, when your joints are stiff and immovable, when the last stay upon which you leaned has suddenly been taken from you, when there is nothing more for which you desire to live, that you involuntarily wind your way to the only place provided of the charities of the world.

There is no stigma attached to the term "Poor House," and there should be no hesitancy on the part of the dependent poor to accept shelter within its walls. Thirty-seven counties of this State have provided county institutions, while thirty-five other districts have provided local or district almshouses. In a well regulated county institution, the inmates are almost as free as the birds of the air; they are supplied with work, suitably supplied and maintained, and enjoy the real pleasure of a home. The sowing and planting of the poor farm should be looked forward to with delight; the shocks of golden grain should be his pride, and the gathering fruit should be his greatest pleasure. But how must he feel who is so unfortunate as to be compelled to invade the sacred fireside where every act and move are considered an intrusion, where no rights or privileges are extended, and where his sole existence is eating and sleeping.

The position of Poor Commissioner is not fully appreciated; there is little or no compensation worthy of expression for his labors, while his cares and responsibilities are innumerable. When a family knocks at the door of the poor district for admission, the children are separated from their parents and indentured or adopted to such persons as in the judgment of the officers are worthy of such trust. This is a difficult task accompanied with



the gravest responsibilities. The mother, though poor and unable to provide for her children, has yet a mother's love, which can only be measured by the loss of the child to those who are fully capable of rearing and supplying their little ones with *such* as love and affection dictate. Great care and deliberation should be taken in the selection of a home for children by indenture or adoption, as upon that part rests the responsibility of rearing a creditable citizen or a worthless outcast. If any doubt should exist in the minds of the authorities, that doubt should first be dispelled, regardless of time or expense.

The State of Pennsylvania, by appropriation to our public schools, promotes her own welfare by rearing intelligent, industrious and worthy citizens within her border.

The population of the State of Pennsylvania, as enumerated by the census of 1890, is 5,258,014. Of that number, also calculating the increase in population since 1890, 9,142 was the aggregate number of inmates of almshouses on September 30, 1892, being a decrease of seventy-five one-hundredths per cent. on the number at the corresponding date of the previous year. During this year the number of persons who received outdoor relief in almshouse districts is the great army of 19,950, who for the most part are deserving poor, but who have become destitute through old age or misfortune. The knight of the road, commonly known as the "tramp," is not included in the number aforementioned, he being "to the manor born," is capable of meeting any emergency that might arise. As evidence of the tramps' present existence in almshouse districts in Pennsylvania, during the last year ending September 30, 1892, 37,976 were relieved, 35,869 were furnished with lodging and 79,528 were furnished with meals, not including the "township poor" or the welcome back door visitor (?) in the last mentioned districts, who might be heard to soliloquize thus: "I toil not, neither do I spin, yet Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as I am." While we should not attempt to imitate in the supplying and maintaining our poor any other than those countries or States which offer better methods of entertainment than ours, yet it seems urgently necessary that work should be provided in some manner to keep the great mass of those who are unworthy poor from imposing upon poor authorities and securing that which ought to be distributed to the worthy and unfortunate class. The underlying principle of the poor law system of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland is the same; it is to relieve destitution, but in so doing to take extreme care not to place the recipient of relief in a better position than that held by the lowest class of self-relying laborers.



The great question of indoor and outdoor relief is there left to boards of guardians having control of certain districts corresponding to our counties, and it is for them to say whether those who are in need of relief should be sent to the workhouse or be supplied by outdoor relief. In a majority of districts they have attempted to confine all relief as much as possible to that administered within the workhouse. An article on the English poor law, written for *Frank Leslie's Weekly*, Mr. Edward Porritt says *inter alia*, with regard to tramps our poor law system is very simple, and is practically uniform all over the country. In connection with each workhouse, but quite apart from the buildings occupied by the permanent paupers, there is what is called the casual ward; old-time tramps call it the "Bastile." To this department tramps are sent who are remaining only one night or so in the workhouse. They are admitted on orders granted by the relieving officer; they are given a bath and a frugal supper, a bed for the night and a frugal breakfast, and in return are compelled to remain in the casual ward till 10 or 11 o'clock in the morning, and either to pick a certain amount of oakum or break a quantity of stone for road mending.

The American tramp has a great antipathy toward the breaking of stone, and when suddenly confronted by a good pile of wood he is suddenly seized with a (feint) illness requiring his immediate departure.

The county of Lycoming has made no provisions for a county almshouse, leaving each of the fifty-two poor districts to provide such means for the poor as under the law they are required to do. It is impossible to secure accurate statistics in reference to the poor of the townships of this county, because no county almshouse exists. According to the census of 1890, Lycoming County has a population of 70,579; with much difficulty the overseers of the city of Williamsport have gotten reports of thirty-five districts of Lycoming, and owing to the difference in filling blanks submitted to the respective districts it is an impossibility to determine the amount paid to the overseers for their services. In this report I have not taken into consideration the amount of money that has been expended as compensation to the overseers because but nine of the thirty-five districts reported mentioned the amount thus expended, the others stating that they received from one, one and one-half and two dollars per day, not mentioning the number of days served during the year. It is reported of the 32 districts returned, Williamsport included, that 668 poor were wholly and partially supported during the year 1892, and the most populous districts having been heard from, I deem it an under estimate that on an average two persons are supplied in each of the re-

maining seventeen districts in Lycoming County, making only about 702. In the reported districts there are 169 males, 238 females and 261 children. The cost to furnish the poor is a question of moment to every taxpayer in this Commonwealth. The magnificent sum of \$31,667.09 was expended in furnishing the poor of the reported districts, while the unreported might be said on an average to cost the sum of \$362.28 per annum, which is obtained by deducting the cost of supplying the poor of thirty-four districts, which upon comparison may be said to give a fair estimate and approximate cost of supplying the poor of the remaining seventeen districts would be \$6,158.76, making a total of \$37,825.85.

It might appear upon its face to cost much in excess of the present rate of taxation to maintain county institutions, but from the reports of thirty-seven counties having county institutions that fallacy is easily disproved. The average number of mills as reported upon thirty-five districts would be but two and three-sevenths mills upon the dollar to raise the total amount expended in Lycoming for poor purposes in the year ending September 30, 1892, being approximately the enormous sum of \$40,708.81. There are many counties in the State having a much greater population than Lycoming, yet whose poor expenses are far less. The county of York has supplied herself with a county almshouse, and while she has a population 28,910 greater than Lycoming, yet the total amount expended for poor purposes for the year ending September 30, 1892, was but \$29,303.83, as compared with \$40,708.81, the aggregate poor expense of Lycoming. The county of Lancaster has a population more than two times greater than Lycoming, yet, with a county almshouse, the aggregate expense appears from the report to be but \$48,386.52, being \$7,677.71 more than the aggregate expense of Lycoming.

It is useless thus to multiply cases each showing the same comparison with those already enumerated. But one step has been taken in the proper direction by our local board in purchasing a farm on the south bank of the Susquehanna river, in Armstrong township, this county, which is suitably located, and if a building of suitable proportions were erected thereon it would afford an opportunity of supplying the poor of the whole county, if it were deemed best so to do, with a suitable home.

The taxpayers of the city of Williamsport should take advantage of this opportunity offered, and advocate the erection of such a building which would be an ornament to this prosperous and rapidly increasing district, a refuge for the unfortunate and an encouragement to the overseers of the poor of the city of Williamsport by ratifying the step which they have taken.

*Mr. Kaupp:* In explanation of this report, I make an estimate of the 17 districts unreported, that by deducting the amount expended for the poor districts of the city of Williamsport from the whole amount expended by the 35 outside districts and dividing that aggregate expense by 34 it would give a fair estimate of the average of the unreported districts. The districts that are not reported are the least populous, so we have only averaged two in each district, making up the sum I state in the report.

We have districts in Lycoming that are very anxious to secure a county almshouse, and well they might be. One district adjoining this city during the last year I think expended a sum exceeding \$1,600. Others from \$700 to \$1,200; and it would appear from the reports from the different counties of the Commonwealth in which county institutions are situated that the poor can be more suitably supplied and better taken care of in every particular, with a reduction of one-third to one-half of the amount expended in the township system. (Applause.)

*Mr. Colborn:* This is an interesting question, and we have on the program Mr. Biddle, Agent of the Board of Public Charities, to open the discussion.

*Mr. Biddle:* I have listened to the paper with great interest. As you all know, the law requires the agent of the Board of Charities to visit, at least once in every two years, the almshouses in the State. I have endeavored for many years to visit, as far as possible, every poorhouse as often as once every year. Some years I have had to omit some of the smaller ones.

I have noticed a uniform improvement in their condition, and it almost forces the inquiry whether, in some cases we are not exceeding our duties to that class. In the report just read it was thrown out that abroad the idea was that the support given to the poor should not exceed that which was procured by the poorest self-dependent person. Now I am hazarding nothing when I say that in the county poorhouses of Pennsylvania it is fully up to the average of the entire population, and vastly exceeds that which a large portion of the laboring class are able to procure for themselves. There is no one here I am sure who would object to the expense on behalf of the worthy poor, those who have borne



their burdens during the heat of the day and fallen at its close are entitled to consideration, and we are not doing for them more than we should.

In almost every case we find the houses well planned, equipped with the best heating apparatus, and thoroughly ventilated and drained. Now it is impossible for the laboring man in his own house to always obtain these. The product of the almshouse farm in almost every instance going on the table, and the best meat and vegetables not raised on the farm are procured.

In making my visits to these counties I have been obliged to make comparisons, and one not at all favorable to those counties in which the township system prevails. There are in the State a few admirable township poorhouses. I am referring to the townships in the counties where the population isn't dense. In Allegheny they have three almshouses, each of them larger than the average county almshouse. In Philadelphia we have the largest almshouse in the State. Another in the district of Germantown and another at Oxford and Lower Dublin, and they are all large ones.

Though the small almshouses are generally untidy and the inmates badly cared for, and wretched lodgings, and altogether below the average grade, there are exceptions. Down in Northumberland county they have a two-story brick building presided over by a good German woman, in which everything is neat and clean and the garden full of vegetables and the inmates have an ideal home, and that is the poorhouse in the town of Sunbury. Near New Castle is another; a large, commodious brick building, and Mr. Leslie and his wife and daughters have an ideal home and the poor take, with the family, that which is provided for all, and there is no house in Pennsylvania anywhere that is more thoroughly neat.

There are others where the township house is creditable and deserving of the highest praise, but it is the exception. This very town of Williamsport has had, until within the last year, an exceedingly poor place; a place which you have left with a feeling of fear and terror, for fear that the next report would be that it had been burned up and the inmates destroyed. A man and



his wife were in charge, and it was in charge of the poor officers of the town, and they agreed to receive all the poor sent to them, and the poor authorities paid so much for each, and then allowed them, if they could get boarders from outside, to take them. And they always had a certain number that they pointed to as their boarders. They were the paying poor, who were being kept in the same building.

I never could commend that building, and I never did, and always told them it was not such a building as the county of Lycoming should possess.

On my last visit I was accompanied by Mr. Scott, of Pittsburgh, and Dr. McLeod, of Philadelphia, and we were driven across the river to a charming old residence, elegantly built and a most delightful home, that we were told had been purchased by the poor authorities of the city of Williamsport as a home for the poor of Williamsport. I was then asked what I thought about the propriety of expending a considerable sum of money in increasing its capacity. My reply was that the building as it now stands is large enough and larger than the one that the town of Williamsport owned before, and I would be sorry to see any money expended on it if it was to be preserved as a township or city house. The county of Lycoming should have a poorhouse for the whole county. If the city of Williamsport starts its local poorhouse, it withdraws the support of that large city from the rest of the county; in the other townships two or three may unite and get an inferior building, and the accommodations will necessarily be inferior.

In a county not far distant there are now three, and used to be four poorhouses. They all had stewards, each house surrounded by a farm of more than 100 acres, and on each farm at least 20 cows. One of them cost \$10,000 and cost the tax payers about \$3,000 to support it, over and above the product of the farm, and the average number of inmates was two. (Laughter.)

The citizens of this county should unite and have the necessary proceedings started by which a vote could be taken, and it should be a unanimous vote in favor of a county poorhouse. When that vote is obtained, as the city of Williamsport has obtained a site—none better, for it should be near the county town, and

should be accessible, although not near enough for the town to resort to it on Sundays and holidays—and you can have plans prepared for the number of the poor you are likely to have, and then select a good superintendent, and there is no reason why you should not, in the county of Lycoming, have a poorhouse that will equal the others in the State of Pennsylvania.

That is what I would like to see here, and it is possible, and when you have done that I want you to turn your attention to your jail, and stir them up there, and don't have your women in the rear of the corridor, shut off by a wooden partition, with a hole in it, through which they can talk to the men. The women in every jail should occupy a part entirely separate from the men. McKean county has an admirable arrangement, and Cambria county the same, where they can't see or know that a man or woman is taken into the apartments for the other sex.

In your jail I noticed that several cells were unoccupied, but that those that were occupied each had four inmates in it. I said, "You don't keep so many in a cell at night?" "Oh no," he said, "In the morning I put four together in a cell and give them a pack of cards, and they pass the whole day playing cards, and it relieves me of so much trouble." (Laughter.)

*Mr. Brumbaugh* (Blair) : It would be almost sacrilege for me, after listening to the able address of the gentleman who preceded me (Mr. Biddle), to say much. I shall deal somewhat with statistics that I made on this subject some years ago. It was my privilege to make out a comparison of the districts in the State, and in that comparison to show which system was the better, the almshouse or the overseer system. I went over the whole State and made some interesting comparisons that interested myself and I think the convention at that time.

I found by calculation that in the almshouse districts there were seven paupers to every thousand inhabitants, while in the overseer districts there was eight. I found that the cost in the overseer districts largely exceeded that of the almshouse system. Two years ago on the 31st of this month we lost our county home by fire, and we were left on the verge of winter without a place to care for our poor. Fortunately we secured a place, and

now we have one of the best institutions in the State, and we think there is real comfort on our farm of 260 acres of the best land in the county, under a high state of cultivation.

In that report I made comparisons of four counties, including Blair. Blair, though only half the size of Lycoming, has a population of about three hundred more. There is a good deal of similarity between the two counties. Our county is largely agricultural; adjoining us is Cambria; north of these two counties are two counties almost similar, Center and Clearfield. Cambria with about the same population as Clearfield, while Blair exceeds Cambria by almost thirty thousand—yet in 1890, according to the report of Public Charities, the expenditures in Center and Clearfield, who have the overseer system, exceeded the expenditures of Blair and Cambria by \$30,000.

I compared the county of Blair with the county of Lycoming. In 1879 I find that Lycoming expended \$31,000, while Blair expended \$13,000. The almshouse district of Williamsport that year expended \$19,000.

*Dr. Walk (Philadelphia):* In speaking of the counties that have almshouses, do you take into consideration the interest on the plant?

*Mr. Brumbaugh:* We take only the expenditures as they appear in the financial report. Our farm cost us \$10,000 in 1848, and we expended about \$14,000 on the plant.

In 1884 your expenditures were not so great—\$21,000 and Blair \$13,000; in 1885, \$27,000, and Blair \$11,000; in 1890, \$30,000, and Blair \$12,000. Last year, Lycoming \$34,636.71, Blair, \$13,000.

You can make the same comparisons on Somerset county, with a population of nearly forty thousand, only expended a little over \$7,000 last year, and the same perhaps on Bedford county. And in each of those counties you will find very comfortable almshouses.

I think, as a matter of economy, it is largely in favor of the almshouse system. And then when you do keep the poor you keep them well.



It was astonishing when investigation was made in Armstrong and some other counties, the outrageous way that the poor had been treated in overseer districts—where they were sold to the highest bidder. In which their lives were certainly sad—the way they were treated—but I desist ; I hope it is not so in this county.

I believe you are making wonderful strides in the way of right in establishing a county home. I never was here but twice, and I am prepossessed with the place. I think you have beautiful sites, with pure water and pleasant surroundings, and the kind of a location to make a comfortable and happy place for your unfortunate poor, and I think you ought to secure such a place, and have one of the most beautiful places selected for their care, which you can do at a good deal less expense than you have been doing during the last twelve or fourteen years, according to the reports of the Board of Charities. ( Applause.)

Dr. Z. C. Myers, of York, read an address on the care of epileptics, as follows :

#### SEPARATE ASYLUMS FOR EPILEPTICS.

In this humanitarian as well as eminently practical age, the tendency is not only to reduce human suffering, but to render life as bearable, as enjoyable indeed, to the afflicted as human ingenuity can make it. Moreover, while man's sentiment of benevolence prompts him to do this, he nevertheless rarely fails to apply the most rigid rules of economy in doing it. And with good reason from a purely humanitarian view, for the more economical his methods are the farther can his bounty extend ; the greater number of sufferers can he relieve, or at any rate aid, with a given amount of money.

So prone is man in our highly civilized society to thus apply his rules of economy in his schemes of benevolence that rarely does he fail to heed practical suggestions for their application. This being true, the writer has abundant hope that should he offer any practical suggestions upon the subject of his essay it will not fail to receive due consideration alike from medical and non-medical men ; alike from the people at large and from those they select to represent them in the halls of legislation.

The unfortunate class of sufferers known as epileptics, should they or should they not have separate asylums for their refuge—separate hospitals for their treatment ; other and different persons for their nurses, guardians, companions, from the lunatic—the insane ?



Epileptics, though by virtue of their disease many of them are of feeble mind, are not as a class insane, and hence require neither the same kind of medical treatment nor by any means the same kind and degree of nursing and watchfulness on the part of those in charge of them that the insane do. Exceptions of course there are.

While epilepsy is practically incurable, the epileptic is as harmless as healthy people, and most of them much of the time in a condition of mind and body to take reasonably good care of themselves and of each other when thrown together.

Except when in the agony of an epileptic convulsion, if agony it is, they are rational, reasonable creatures whose outgoings and incomings are as those of other men, except, indeed, that their disease, as is the case with many if not most diseases, has a tendency to weaken the power of the will, in which case they would be more prone to follow the lead of their propensities and fancies than other people.

If what I have thus far assumed as true is true, humanity and economy alike would suggest that separate asylums be provided by our States for its epileptics, asylums where safety from physical injury when falling in the epileptic fit, where rest, recreation, healthy exercise, cheerful companionship, a minimum of restraint, freedom from annoying and mentally depressing sights and sounds, wholesome food taken under proper dietary regulations, and good sanitary conditions generally, would be the prevailing characteristics and conditions.

In such an asylum many of the expensive appliances intended very properly for the restraint of the insane might be dispensed with. The number of nurses might be reduced. In the best regulated insane asylums one nurse is required to about each fourteen patients. I can see no good reason why in an asylum devoted exclusively to epileptics one bright, active nurse might not serve 100 patients. For it must not be forgotten that an epileptic, when not in a convulsion, or suffering from the effects of one, is not only in a good condition to help himself, but in an emergency to render aid to others.

It requires not a very close study of the conditions of life best suited to epileptics to reach the conclusion that for them, so far as our climate will allow, an outdoor life is the best. Hence, extensive pleasure grounds, ample room for the employment of their time and the occupation of their minds in health-giving agricultural and horticultural occupations, combined with such simple trades as basket and broom making, would seem in all respects for them the best employment.

I need not say the site for such an institution should be eleva-

ted and healthy, commanding magnificent views of mountains and valleys, and indeed, so far as possible, of all that will produce a pleasing effect upon the mind.

The separation of rational epileptics (and they are nearly all rational,) from the insane is demanded by every humane consideration for the former unfortunate sufferers.

To be doomed to a life of suffering from an incurable disease which attacks both mind and body is quite enough without being compelled to eke out that life herded, corralled, with those bereft of reason, whose presence, if not productive of constant fear in the poor epileptic, has at least a most painful and depressing effect upon him.

This being the case, and since a separate institution for epileptics will not add materially to the burdens of the people, as our epileptics are now confined in our insane asylums, it is to be hoped that our Legislature will at an early day make the necessary pecuniary provisions for the erection, equipment and maintenance of an institution especially devoted to the care of our epileptics; and may I not hope that this body will now, or at a very early day, inaugurate a movement in behalf of such an institution of such moral force as will insure the favorable consideration of this subject by our next Legislature?

*Col. Glenn (Allegheny):* I don't know why I was asked to discuss this matter. I know nothing about it, only that we have epileptics in our Home, but I don't know anything about how to cure them. But I do know that there should be something done in the way of an institution for such cases. Go to any of our hospitals and tell them they are epileptics, and they say they won't take them, so there is no place for them, but the poorhouse, and I don't think it a proper place for this class.

This much I would like to say on another subject, and that is how to care for unfortunate girls; those who have fallen and whom no one wants in their homes. No one will take them in, except the almshouse, and I think it is a matter that ought to receive serious consideration. We had a girl in our home not long ago, and I went to an institution, kept by the sisters, in Pittsburgh—I don't remember the name—and they received me cordially, and after I told them my story they said: "We will take her," and they never asked how much we would pay and never have sent me a bill for it. They took her in and cared for her; a sort of

maternity hospital you might call it. Something that the ladies should have charge of, and we should help them. It is something we should give our attention to. We have places for almost all other kinds except these two, we have an elegant institution at Elwyn, and prospects of getting another one away up in Venango county, but that is too far from the population of the western part of the State, but we are willing to take anything west of the mountains that the eastern part of the State will give us.

We have another institution that five or six years ago was struggling for an existence—the Children Aid Societies, which has gotten its head above water and are able to take care of themselves, and if we don't look out they will be taking care of us very soon. I wish something could be done to create an institution for taking care of these other two classes.

*Dr. Myers:* It is by the help of the Children Aid Societies that we can get an institution for epileptics; I don't think an epileptic has a right to go through an insane asylum. I will cite a case in York: an epileptic who, when not in a fit, was as sane as anyone, went fishing a little while ago, and fell in 14 inches of water and was drowned. On the Reading railroad a man that hadn't had an epileptic fit in ten years was a fireman, and took a fit and fell in the firebox and was burned. So I think we should have a separate hospital for epileptics, where they can be well taken care of, and if you can't do any more you can sometimes save them from an ignominious death.

*Mr. Miller (Williamsport):* We have a case on our hands that has puzzled us, what to do with it. It is a young woman, she is not insane, she is somewhat weak minded, but she is not a subject for the insane asylum, and I am told she is too old for the home for the feeble, and the question is what are we to do with her? I think it would be a grand idea if we could get a home in Pennsylvania where epileptics would be separately cared for.

*Dr. Walk (Philadelphia):* I have a few words to offer on this subject. I have had considerable experience with them, and we must bear clearly in mind that the number of epileptics is very



large, but that only a small part of them would ever come up for State or county care. Some of the ablest men in the country to-day are men who are afflicted with this disease. It is not by any means true that epileptics are in all cases, at least for many years of their sufferings, affected in any way which diminishes, apparently their intellectual power. After a long period there is generally a failure of intellectual power, but any of us who have made it a matter of research have found that in the history of the world some of the best work has been done by men afflicted with this disease. You will recall Shakespeare's lines in *Julius Cæsar* where Cassius says: "Cæsar had a falling sickness." That is because he was an epileptic. Mohammed was an epileptic.

I have personal acquaintance with a man of very great intellectual ability, a very great lawyer, who is an epileptic. I had a student of medicine and friend who was afflicted with it, but took very high standing among his fellow students. It is a disease widely distributed and existing in all classes of the community. I don't think if a man falls down in an epileptic seizure and is unfortunate enough to be burned up in a railroad car that he comes to an "ignominious death." It is simply an accidental death. A few years ago one of the brightest men in the Legislature of Pennsylvania was an epileptic.

What we do need in Pennsylvania I think is an institution—perhaps not very extensive—in which those epileptics who are so badly afflicted that they cannot take care of themselves—who have very frequent seizures and have no friends to care for them—could be cared for, but where they could earn a large part of the cost of their maintenance. Most of them could do a great deal for their own support—and an institution also which would admit epileptics who could be paid for by their friends.

I believe such an institution would relieve the community of such epileptics as mentioned here, who cannot be well dealt with outside, and relieve the insane hospitals of a class who are improperly there, and the school at Elwyn of a number of children who ought to be out of there, because they are past the intellectual state; and perhaps it would relieve our prisons of some epileptics who would be better off than in prison, because their condition is such as to render them unfit for prisons.



But I hope if a movement be started for the foundation of an epileptic asylum it will have two features, and those features prominently placed there. First, that it will admit persons whose friends can pay—the majority of epileptics have been, in my experience, in a class of society where there could be a reasonable payment made for their care, and, second, that it will be a sort of an employment institution where they can work. Most epileptics, until the disease has progressed very far, can work, and are able to do good work.

*Dr. Myers:* Would you want to recommend that an epileptic do any dangerous work? You wouldn't recommend that he go up on any building?

*Dr. Walk:* I wouldn't recommend a man that was color blind to be an engineer, or myself to climb telegraph poles. I recognize that an epileptic is not suited to be a fireman or engineer on a railroad train, but there are plenty of occupations that they are suited for where there wouldn't be any liability of his being hurt if he had a seizure.

At this the discussion closed.

*Mr. Snyder:* This question is asked? Is there any law in this State forbidding the furnishing of supplies for house and farm or out door relief by a director of the poor? I would refer the question to the Laws of 1874, page 180. It has been decided that he can not.

Here is another question: "Will kindness and moral suasion alone be sufficient under all circumstances to secure proper discipline and good order in the management of almshouses, or other charitable institutions. If not, what other methods should be employed to secure the desired object?"

*Mr. Wickersham* (Chester County): I will say that I think moral suasion will not answer in all cases. You are all acquainted with the kind of people we have to deal with in almshouses, and that on a great many of them moral suasion would be entirely lost. As to what measures should be used—well, in many cases there would have to be harsh measures used; I would say have the discipline, at any cost.

The Convention here adjourned until to-morrow.

## PROCEEDINGS OF OCTOBER 19TH, 1893.

The Convention was called to order by President Colborn at 9 A. M.

The delegates, rising, repeated the Lord's Prayer.

President Colborn announced a reception at the Updegraff, this evening, at 9 o'clock.

Mr. W. F. Shepherd, of Pottsville, addressed the convention as follows, on "Poor Law Revision":

I am somewhat reluctant to speak on this matter again, having said all I cared to about it at Erie. I haven't prepared anything special for this meeting. You are sitting as a jury to decide upon the merits of this bill, and I apprehend there is no reasonable man in Pennsylvania to-day, and I know there are no women, but what believe in supporting the poor and taking care of them as they should be taken care of, as the law contemplates they should be—the highest law known to civilization. The edict has gone forth, and neither you nor I dare shirk the duty that is resting upon us. It is a duty devolving upon you and upon me to see that the poor of this Commonwealth are provided for.

Then the question comes, what is the best method to reach them, and when we have determined that question we ought not to hesitate a moment to adopt it. Now, is there any one in Pennsylvania to-day who doesn't want a uniform law as to the poor? If there is he is not compelled to come under the provisions of this law. There is no compulsion about it. If he wants the old overseer system, a relic of barbarism, in his locality, let him have it; but don't come here and try to hinder that which is for the promotion and the advancement of a system that is for the good of the poor.

Don't act the dog in the manger. I want to make one thing plain to you, and that is that I have no interest in this matter, except to do what is right for the poor. Don't think I am looking for a position. I have had it intimated to me that some have thought that certain members of this committee were looking for positions and were interested in getting this legislation for themselves. I want to say that I wouldn't take anything that is offered by this bill. I have a profession that I intend to adhere

to the balance of my life, and I have no desire for the position of Superintendent, or Inspector, or Clerk under this bill. At least give me credit for doing what I have done from the best of motives. And I know that Mr. Morrison don't want anything, more than I do. And I hope there is no one here, that because some one might want a position, therefore they would vote against the endorsement of this measure. We have to have some one to take care of matters, and let us not be selfish. Only see that the man is capable.

This bill provides for a poor law department in Pennsylvania. A man came to me one day and said he did not want any judge to try his case; he could try it himself. Unless you are like that man, I take it, you won't oppose a department if we have such a system as we should inaugurate in Pennsylvania for the control of the matter. The reason why this legislation is general is because in Pennsylvania there can be no local legislation. In the Convention in Erie it was asked why there couldn't be local legislation on this question. I answered then, as I do now, by abundant authority from the decisions of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, we are obliged to have it general. But we are not repealing your special laws in your district. If you want them retain them. We are only advising you what is best for yourself.

Now, we want some one at the head of the department. It is necessary to have a head to the department; you might as well have a court without a judge. With insurance it is the same in Pennsylvania. With the common school system there is a head; with every department there is a head. We propose to give you a good man, well equipped for the work, to be appointed by the Governor, to do this work. Rules and regulations are to be adopted, and submitted to the Governor and to the Attorney General for their approval, and these rules are to be the emanation of a brain that is fitted for the work. Now, you cannot object to that. Then he must be provided with a seal, so as to make his work valid and binding.

In this bill there is a remedy for existing evils that provides a system far superior to the old, at least in our county, as to the man that turns up on us who doesn't belong to us. Before this we have had to get out an order of removal, and remove him where he said he had a settlement, and then that county could take out an appeal, and the case would have to be tried at Allegheny. If this becomes a law we can go into our own court with a petition and procure a citation and have it served on the Directors of Allegheny and let them answer it, and if they cannot show that the pauper doesn't belong to them judgment will be entered against them, and the process of the court will be used to enforce it.



Your endorsement of this measure doesn't mean its passage, or that every provision of it will become a law. It seems simply that there is a necessity at this time in Pennsylvania, as you think, for a uniform poor law. It is impossible for me, or any set of men, to draft a bill that would meet in every respect the approbation of every one in Pennsylvania.

The whole question this morning is, are you in favor of a uniform poor law? If you are, you should endorse that bill. Away with your quibbling. Unless you want the old overseer system, about which we heard as late as yesterday, the people being sold to the highest bidder; unless you want slavery of that kind in this grand Commonwealth in its worst form—because that is what it is—if there is a man here who is in favor of that system in Pennsylvania, let him stand up. If you are not, then come in with us and say you are in favor of a system in Pennsylvania that will operate to the advantage of a pauper.

There is a class of people who say that the poor have no business to be poor. You may say that, you who are well off, but none of us know where we are going before we die. I have a gentleman in mind now who a short time ago could count his gold by the thousands, but, like many others, he endorsed for others, and finally had to go to the poorhouse to spend the balance of his days. When one says that a man has no business to be poor he is talking out of a selfish nature. He hasn't that feeling of humanity that he ought to have. There is no one who feels the pangs of poverty like one who has been affluent. When I saw this old man in the poorhouse I took him by the hand and I says, "James, are you here?" and the tears trickled down his cheeks, and he was cut to the quick and humiliated, and he says: "I hope I will die soon, and I want you to see that I am not buried as a pauper." There are those who have brought themselves to poverty through immorality and vice, and are not as deserving as those who have been brought there through a chain of circumstances over which their weak nature had no control. Poverty will exist to the end of time. Poverty to the always poor is an endurable evil, but to the former rich it is an unendurable misery. I tell you we are in duty bound to provide for the poor of this State, and to do it right, and the man who don't do it has no soul, or it is so small it would take a microscope to find it. Talk about the gold and silver—that don't belong to you at all. You have no right to claim it; it belongs to the Lord. He has sent forth his edict, and you dare not defy it. He commands you to take care of the poor.

Now, I will not take more time. Do you want a poor law department in Pennsylvania which means better work, more econ-



omy, and from a philanthropic point of view is much better? I say to you frankly that there are some little matters in this bill that, had I been alone in preparing it, I might have made a little different, but I gave way for the general good. I might not be willing to pay a director as much as the bill provides; you might not; but you have our Representative at home, and if this bill is presented to the Legislature you can tell him what you want. What difference does it make to you whether it is two or three dollars a day? What I want to impress upon you is that the only thing to consider now is whether we should have a uniform poor law. If you can advance any good reason for not having it, here is the place to do it, and now.

There is another matter I will refer to. The objection was raised at Erie as to certain matters in this bill as to service of process outside of the county by an officer. I said then, as I say now, there was no difficulty about it. It is not necessary to be a lawyer to know that it is not so. You serve your subpoena throughout the whole Commonwealth, which is a process of the court, and a man is bound to obey it. If he don't the court will let him know.

Let us, therefore, having assembled here in Convention, get down to this matter as we should, as reasonable men and women, and say with one voice, "We will have a uniform poor law in Pennsylvania, if this committee, or any other committee, can put it through the Legislature, and it receives the approval of the Governor of this Commonwealth." (Applause.)

The Convention was here favored by a very pretty song by Miss Blanche Derr, "In Sweet September."

Mr. J. Howard Morrison, of Philadelphia, opened the discussion on this matter as follows:

*Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen:* This is a subject that I take up with pleasure. It is not new to this Association. I am informed that it has been a subject of thought since the first session. If that be true we are beginning to be educated up to the point where we will see the necessity of such a revision. It has been the subject of a special committee, and of the report of a special commission appointed by the Governor, after a thorough investigation. That bill was referred to your committee, who went over it in detail and eliminated a great deal of the authority

which had been granted by the Poor Law Commission. We changed the bill in many other places also, feeling that it was too stringent in its changes ; that to totally change laws already in force would be too much and would put the bill instead of advancing it. The necessity for such a poor law revision must be apparent to everyone, when we consider that there are but few counties in the State that have an individual poor law government. Each district with its individual right to levy taxes, etc. There is no one here who represents the city of Philadelphia, because that city has no particular district of its own ; there are a number of subdivisions. There is the district of Germantown, and Oxford and Lower Dublin, which I have the honor to in part represent, and a number of others. When we consider that the townships of Oxford and Lower Dublin represent probably one-third of the city of Philadelphia and have a population of sixty to seventy thousand, that is as large as the average county in the State. Now the first thing proposed by this poor-law revision is the incorporation of poor-law districts by counties ; that there may be an individual poor district co-existing with the county itself and governed by the officers whose authority extends over the county.

The other minor details which I propose to take up are on the general laws of the State, and there is, to my mind, two great divisions : first, to find what we want in the way of poor-law revision, and second, how to get it.

Now you, representing a county, township or city, have your ideas that have grown up with the particular system that you represent. To your mind that represents the greater part of what is good in the protection of the poor and the carrying out of the poor laws. I may think that which is represented by my township is the best. You may think yours is the best.

There was never any good accomplished by legislation, except what was the subject of a compromise. We even hear of it in Congress to-day (laughter). I have been informed that there was quite a little opposition to the bill when the matter was presented at Erie last year, and it was laid over for discussion here. I think that the opposition there must have been from a misunderstanding of the contents of the proposed bill. I will take it up

particularly and answer, if I can, should any delegate request an answer, anything that may be asked about it.

*Reads title and first three sections.*

Now the question arises, does the public generally desire a poor law department, as we have a Department of Insurance? The Insurance Commissioner sees that the various companies in the State live up to the law, and he has the power to go into court and request that certain companies be investigated. If this Poor Law Department is created the Poor Law Commissioner will have certain powers. Those powers were very large, but were cut down by the Committee very greatly. This Poor Law Commissioner would have the right to promulgate rules and regulations for the government of almshouses in the State. It would be general law, and would cover all.

He couldn't interfere with your special laws, and his rules and regulations must be in conformity with them and agree with them.

As to this part of Section 3, in regard to examining the books, that seemed to the committee a proper and good regulation. There should be no objection to that; if there is, there must be some ground for it, and that is when an investigation should be made.

Section 5 is a very important one.

*Reads it.*

There is another evidence of the care with which the Act has been drawn, to protect the rights of the local Poor Boards. I have no hesitation in saying that any law made could not be more galling upon any Poor Director.

If by any mishap anyone was appointed a Poor Law Commissioner whose acts were unfair or unjust in the opinion of any of the Directors of the Poor of this State, they could complain to the Governor and he could investigate the matter, and, it being his appointive officer, could use his power with that officer.

*Reads Section 7.*

You couldn't expect these men to pay all of their expenses in traveling around the State, or whatever might be incidental and necessary in the investigation of the affairs of the poor authorities.

I will say here that the salary of the Poor Law Commissioner was fixed at \$4,000 and clerks \$1,800, but that is a matter of detail, and can be arranged as this association thinks proper, or by the Legislature when it comes before them.

*Reads Section 8.*

My remarks already made apply to this. As to the examination of books, etc.

*Reads Section 9.*

That only provides a penalty for what is a misdemeanor in office.

*Reads Section 10.*

The object of that is if the Commissioner or clerks or inspectors desire to examine books it is proper that they may, but it wasn't desirable that they could compel directors to travel from one end of the State to the other and carry their books and accounts along with them, and put their district to the expense of paying mileage, etc.; that might be attached to it. If the matter is grave enough to be examined it is the proper thing for the Poor Law Commissioner to appear within the district and examine the papers and books there.

*Reads Section 11.*

That is the section that would make the greatest change in the law. It would provide that every county would be a poor district after a certain date, unless they were governed by some special law incorporating them. That was referred to by Mr. Shepard when he said no district need come under this law unless they desire to. That is provided for in the last section. The method of coming in would be that if the Poor District, say of West Buffalo, desired to come into the general county, it would have the Legislature pass an Act repealing their special law, and thereby they would come under the general law.

This matter of electing three directors is another matter of detail. To my mind a larger number is the proper thing.

*Reads Section 12.*

This provides a method of raising money for the erection of poor houses and the care and maintenance of the poor within the county district after it is once erected.



*Dr. Walk* (Philadelphia): In a county like Luzerne, where several poor districts now exist, suppose one of them has the Legislature repeal its special law and the others not, how would that affect the enforcement of the law?

*Mr. Morrison*: To my mind, it would create at once a county Poor District, and the people in the townships who didn't come in would probably be doubly taxed for the support of the poor. That came in my mind when I spoke of the West Buffalo district.

*Dr. Walk*: The district that had their law repealed would constitute the county district?

*Mr. Morrison*: Yes. The question of whether you could double-tax the other districts would have to be settled by the courts. We cannot arrange every little detail in an Act of this kind.

*Mr. Chas. Lawrence* (Philadelphia): Supposing there were three poor districts in a county and one of them asked to have their law repealed, you say they would become the county district; wouldn't that be the minority ruling the majority—one out of three?

*Mr. Morrison*: At first sight I will say I think that would be the result of it.

*Mr. Lawrence*: The remedy would be for the two townships to oppose the repeal?

*Mr. Morrison*: It might be. It might be that the county organization would apply only to the one that chose to come in, and that the tax would be levied only over the district covered by that, and that the others would be relieved. And that as they came in they would drop into the county organization, but would have no voice in the organization until the next county election.

*Dr. Walk*: As a practical question I don't think it is a very serious one.

*Mr. Morrison:* There is another answer to that question. If a small township says, "We want our law repealed," and the rest of the county says, "You do not, because it would be a burden on us," I haven't the least doubt that the Legislature, or the member from that district would see that there wasn't force enough brought in the Legislature to repeal that special Act. As you say, the majority ought to rule, and in that case would.

*Reads Sections 13 to 19.*

These leave a discretion to your Courts. Our Courts now-a-days, where property or money is held in trust, make such an order or decree as will continue it in that trust. I haven't the least doubt that the courts, where land or money is left, that it would go for the benefit of the county at large and the support of the poor.

*Reads Sections 20 to 28.*

This law of settlements was made about 175 years ago. It is not a good one to-day. I should at least like to see this part of the law passed if nothing else was.

*Reads Section 29.*

*Dr. Walk:* The present law is that you shall not keep children in the almshouse over sixty days, between the ages of two and sixteen, except those that are sick or disabled. We have a large number of them in almshouses, because they are not fit to go anywhere else.

*A Delegate:* What shall we do with children from the hour of birth until two years?

*Mr. Morrison:* They may remain in the poor house. Many a child under the age of two requires the care of its mother, who is generally an inmate of the poor house. If she doesn't desire it under her care, the Directors have the power to turn it over to the Children's Aid Society, and after the age of two years they must place it somewhere.

*Reads Section 30.*

That is somewhat different from the present law. Now you apply to a Justice of the Peace or a Magistrate. The Magistrates

in the city always give a judgment to the man that brings the business to them, and in our city, when we ask for an order of removal, if I am the plaintiff in the case I feel positive I will get it, and I know if I am the defendant it will be decided against me. It may be that the Justices are different in the country, but we thought it better to take it directly to the Court of Quarter Sessions. If the parties are not satisfied they may appeal to the Supreme Court, within thirty days, and if not it is final. Then, as to sending out these citations: You have to send a citation to the Directors or Overseers of the Poor, and issue it in the county in which they are, unless you can catch them in some other county.

*Reads Sections 31 and 32.*

This is a new section and something new to the law. It is intended to prevent what is technically called railroading. The shifting of an indigent person from one district to another. By the time he gets around you have paid enough sometimes to support him.

*Reads Section 33.*

The change proposed here is to make the wife support her husband. We have instances where she was well able, and no means of compelling it. The present law requires that the grand parent shall support their grandchildren under such circumstances. The majority of the committee favored leaving it only on the parents to support their children and the children to support their parents.

*Reads Sections 34 to 41.*

I will call your attention to Section 41. An Act was passed three or four years ago which provided that the directors could go into court and request the court to set aside the property of the pauper to be used for his benefit, but the Act was, in my opinion, and in the opinion of the courts of Philadelphia, unconstitutional for this reason: it gave no means of notice to the pauper. It was taking away the pauper's property without due process of law. This Act takes it to the Court of Quarter Sessions, and provides that the pauper shall have notice, and that if he feels that he is able to take care of himself he can

apply to the court, and if they are convinced, they will hand back his property.

*Reads Sections 42 to 50.*

This is what Mr. Shepard referred to when he said you were not bound to come in. The general law applying to the relief of the poor, and the conduct of poor institutions, etc., would be governed by this Act; everything but your incorporation and your levying of taxes.

I might say a word in conclusion. I have been told that one of the objections to the Poor Law Department would be the expense to the State. Now, if fixed at the figure fixed in this proposed bill it isn't so great that any one need to stand upon that. And whose money pays for it? The money of the citizens of this Commonwealth, and if it is for the benefit of all I see no reason why it shouldn't be passed.

*Dr. Walk (Philadelphia):* I am heartily in favor of this bill. There are some modifications I should like to see. I would like to see a clause added allowing directors to take into almshouses people who are not residents of the district, but who are there sick or wounded, in emergencies, and also the clause requiring grandchildren and grandparents to support each other retained. But the bill is a good one. I hope the Convention will endorse it. I believe one modification to be essential because I don't believe the Legislature will enact it in its present form. When the Poor Law Commission was established in 1889 I took an active part in having that law passed. And that Commission was a most able body. We have hardly ever had a Commission that surpassed it.

Mr. McGonnigle, who has devoted so much of his life to this subject, was on that Commission, and John Nevin Hill, who was a genius in these matters. He was sent to England to study the poor laws there. And upon the report of that Commission this bill is founded. It is hard now to obey the law try as hard as we may. Our law of settlement is simply absurd. I don't think there is a director here that can tell just what the law of settlement is in Pennsylvania. We cannot keep that law. I don't think there is a district in the State that follows the rule of settlement.



Now, the first ten sections of this law I don't think can be enacted. I have talked to a great many about it, and found this to be the condition of things, and Mr. Morrison, I think, will, to some extent, confirm this opinion. A great many will read the first few sections, and will say, "This is another Act to make another office." A great many don't read into the 11th and the more important sections. I don't think the Legislature would have passed this Act under any circumstances. I didn't hear any one that favored it. Even Hon. James L. Graham told me he saw no chance of its enactment. But let us ask for what is practical. I would like to see this Convention strike out the first ten sections of this Act (applause); not because they are bad, but because at this time they are impracticable. Commence with the 11th. Take the rest of it, making forty sections, and send it to the Legislature with a strong endorsement. It don't hurt one of the poor directors acting under special laws. It won't change the number of directors in Lancaster County or in the Department of Charities and Corrections in Philadelphia. But it will give us a general rule to work towards, and as we find our special laws are becoming unsatisfactory we can come in under the general law. I am not well satisfied with the Act under which we work in the city of Philadelphia. I think it needs many improvements, and while I recognize our conditions are peculiar there, and that this Act in some things might not apply to us, it would be a sort of a model to work towards. I hope the Act, except the first ten sections, will receive our hearty support, and be sent before the next Legislature and become a law. (Applause.)

*Mr. Colborn:* We will call upon Mr. McGonnigle, and then allow the Convention to take such action as they see fit.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen—I might make a little explanation with reference to the fear that some seem to have that this Act contemplated giving some one interested in the preparation of it a good position. The only interest I have in this work is because I like it. I wouldn't have a position under it. When I can't take an interest in charity work simply because I like it I will get out of it.

Since this Association first met this question has come up, "Can't we get a uniform poor law?" and now it comes up again and I think we are nearer having a general feeling alike on the subject than ever before.

With reference to our present law I will say one or two things. Some years ago there was an old man moved from Allegheny City into Butler County. He lost all his money, and lived there twenty years, became a pauper and went through three orders of removal, and finally, after an expenditure of four or five hundred dollars, they landed the poor old man on one of the townships and put him out to board to the lowest bidder, and there he is to-day. He is not boarding, he is just staying, in a condition that no one here would desire to see. That is one of the defects of our overseer system. And that must be changed. It is not human or right.

Another case I know something about is that of a blind man from Lancaster County moved into Juniata County. He had \$85 when he landed at his destination. He put the money in the bank and went into the poultry business and stayed about a year, supporting his family and himself. The Overseers of the Poor of that township notified him that he would have to get out, that he was liable to become a charge, and they did take him before a squire, and he had no way to defend himself, but he was making his living and had money in bank. Now is that right? Such laws must be changed.

Another case: A man married and went to settle in a town, and the overseers notified the landlord from whom he went to rent, "don't you rent to that man, or we will hold you responsible," and he couldn't get a house to live in. He went to get work, and they notified the man to whom he applied that if he became a charge on the town they would hold him responsible. He went to get assessed, and they notified the assessor not to assess him, and he was not allowed in this way to gain a settlement, and yet that man was able to take care of himself and his family.

Now I say we must say to the people and to the Legislature that this must stop.

During the work of the Poor Law Commission, I asked an Overseer of the Poor in one of the counties where they have no almshouse, "What do you do with a person whom you have to support?" "I get in my buggy, go and see where I can get him boarded the cheapest." I asked him, "Do you look to see whether the people are able to take care of themselves, as well as a boarder?" and he says, "No, it is simply a question of how cheap I can keep that man, without regard to any of his comforts." Now, is that right? I think we will all agree the poor must have better treatment than that.

Then, again, with reference to our settlement laws. I know of a case in Armstrong county where a man lived there seventeen years and had supported his family, but the overseers watched him so that he was only allowed to pay his taxes every other year, and didn't gain a settlement, and after seventeen years they sent him back to Washington county. And if the people get to understand what is going on with reference to the care of the poor in this boarding out system, they will rise up in their might and wipe this Act from the books. We all read George Kennan's article on Russia, and I said to a friend at that time, we have things going on in the poor law administration of our State as obnoxious as the doings of the Russian prisons appear to them. Of course they are not treated as cruelly, but there are poor people treated in the overseer poor districts as bad as the Russians appear to be in their prisons, and we should stop it.

I suppose you have all heard of the girl Helen Keller, who is blind and deaf and dumb, and has been since she was nineteen months old. She was admitted to the Perkins Institute in Boston, and she is now able to read, and to write, and is very intelligent, and she understands all that is said to her, and is a marvel in every way. I spent an afternoon with her not long since, and I can not get done talking of her. She lives in Alabama, and not long ago there was a deaf and dumb and blind boy sent to the hospital in Pittsburgh for treatment. They said nothing could be done for him, and there he was. His parents couldn't take care of him, and he was brought to the attention of a gentleman interested in the work. He wrote to Helen Keller and told her he had found another unfortunate, but didn't know what to do with

him. The care of such a child is quite an expense. He requires some one to specially attend him all the time. Helen Keller had had a dog given to her, and some one killed it. The papers printed it and some one sent her five dollars to buy another dog, and some one else sent her five dollars, and it went on, and in a little while she had a couple of hundred dollars, when she got this letter from Dr. Brown, and she says: "Take my dog money; I will take care of that boy." And so she did. She sent him to Perkins Institute, and there he is to-day, being educated and trained up and taken care of by this deaf, dumb and blind girl, and she has raised two thousand dollars for his support and paid every dollar of his expense.

Now he belongs to a county in Pennsylvania, and the Directors of the Poor of that county are willing to do something for his support, but strictly speaking, under the law they can not, because he has never been a pauper, and his whole support falls on this deaf and dumb and blind girl. Under this new law they would have a right to provide for the support of children in families or other institutions, so that if we had nothing else before us but this story, we want a law that will allow that child to be taken care of.

It may be that we shall not have a Commissioner of Charities, as proposed in the bill, but we must have a head. We can certainly have it turned over to the Department of Public Charities, and I for one have no objection to the Board of Public Charities taking the place of the Board mentioned in the bill. I don't think that the Board of Public Charities could offer the least opposition to this bill, if this work is turned over to them. But they have all the work they can do now. They have had to divide the work of the Lunacy Committee. It seems to me it wouldn't be fair to have the almshouse department along with the lunacy department. That is simply a suggestion I throw out. But we must put ourselves on record as disapproving of the poor laws as they stand to-day. They are old foggy and not right. If we endorse this bill it don't mean that we insist upon having it passed word for word as it is, but that we demand a new poor



law. And the new poor law, as laid down generally in that, I think is what we want.

I think this should be referred to a committee to be kept alive and presented at our next meeting, to be more fully talked about, and then put into the hands of the Legislature when they meet two years hence.

*Mr. Chas. Lawrence* (Philadelphia): I had no intention of saying a word about this bill. I supposed it was in the hands of a good committee and that they would know what was needed. But after hearing the remarks of Mr. McGonnigle, I can not sit here without expressing some thoughts as to how things are managed.

If we have Overseers of the Poor in Pennsylvania who act as he states, it would bring the blush of shame to the cheek of any one who claims to be a man. Those Overseers of the Poor who drive a man from place to place for fear he will become a charge on their township, there should be a law enacted that would promote them from Overseers of the Poor to Wardens of Jails, to take charge of the jail doors—on the inside. (Applause.)

If such men exist in this Commonwealth the sooner some Act is passed to correct such abuse the better.

There are some things in the bill that might meet with opposition from some. There might be objections to having more offices made, or to appointing Commissioners and Clerks, etc.

We have now a State Board of Public Charities whom I have no doubt have been the means of correcting many abuses in this Commonwealth. I, for one, don't feel disposed to take out of their hands the prosecuting of the work, and would like to see that changed as suggested by Mr. McGonnigle, to let the duties devolve upon the Board of Public Charities. I don't think they are so far overworked that they can not take that. I know it would be a pleasure to them, and I feel that as some of them have devoted so many years to this work they would feel hurt to have this Association ask for an Act to be passed to put some one over their heads in this work.

I would therefore move that, as the Legislature doesn't meet until a year from next January, and there will be another Convention in the meantime of this Association, that the bill be re-committed to the Committee to make the modifications in the Act, as far as the appointment of a Commissioner is concerned, so as to insure the passage of the Act, and when it is brought before the Convention next year—and we can not lay too much stress upon that—to have some enactment put in there that if there are such cruel-hearted men in the Commonwealth, treating the unfortunate poor like dogs—there should be something more than calling that a misdemeanor—call it a crime; and if it be proved that anyone acts in such a way as shown by Mr. McGonnigle, I would be one of the first to contribute my last cent to send that man to jail. (Applause).

After considerable discussion, the motion of Mr. Lawrence to refer the matter back to the Legislative Committee was adopted, after being amended, directing the committee to strike out all the sections relating to the appointment of a commissioner, and to report it in this shape at the next meeting of the Association.

Mr. Kaupp, of Williamsport, announced that the Committee on Entertainment had planned excursions for to-morrow for the delegates, and stated the nature of them, which was received with hearty applause.

The Committee on place of next meeting reported unanimously in favor of York; the time, the second Tuesday in October, which, time however, is subject to change.

Upon motion of Dr. Walk, of Philadelphia, the report is agreed to, the time to be definitely fixed hereafter.

Mr. McGonnigle read the report of the Auditing Committee.

Upon motion of Mr. Snyder, of Philadelphia, the report is received and agreed to.

## JOHN S. HOPE, TREASURER,

In Account With the Association of Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania, 1892 and 1893.

1892.		<i>Receipts.</i>	
Oct.	13.	Chester County Aid.....	\$ 5 00
"	13.	West Penn Children's Aid.....	5 00
"	13.	Washington County and Children's Aid.....	17 50
"	13.	Allegheny County City Home.....	17 50
Nov.	7.	Adams County.....	17 50
"	7.	Northampton County.....	17 50
"	7.	Erie County.....	17 50
"	7.	Chester County.....	17 50
"	5.	Allegheny County Farm.....	17 50
"	5.	Elwyn Training School for Feeble Minded Children..	17 50
"	5.	Cumberland County.....	17 50
"	11.	Lackawanna County, North Luzerne.....	7 00
"	11.	Lancaster County.....	17 50
"	11.	Lebanon County.....	10 00
"	11.	Mercer County.....	17 50
"	11.	York County.....	17 50
"	16.	Luzerne County, Central Poor District.....	37 50
"	28.	Oxford and Lower Dublin Poor District.....	17 50
"	28.	Montgomery County.....	17 50
"	28.	Scranton Poor District.....	17 50
"	27.	Germantown Poor District.....	17 50
Dec.	2.	Middle Coal Field District, Luzerne County.....	17 50
"	7.	Westmoreland County.....	17 50
"	7.	Huntingdon County.....	10 00
"	13.	Pittsborough, Pitt Township.....	10 00
"	23.	Borough of Sunbury.....	5 00
1893.			
Jan.	2.	Berks County.....	17 50
"	12.	Bedford County.....	17 50
"	20.	Department of Charity, Philadelphia.....	17 50
"	20.	Department of Charity, Pittsburgh.....	17 50
Mar.	24.	Fayette County.....	37 50
"	24.	Somerset County.....	17 50
"	24.	Children's Aid Society of Philadelphia.....	10 00
"	24.	Beaver County.....	17 50
Aug.	24.	Crawford County.....	17 50
Sept.	1.	Franklin County.....	17 50
"	7.	Blair County.....	17 50
"	26.	Williamsport, Lycoming County.....	17 50
"	30.	Schuylkill County.....	17 50
Feb.	24.	Delaware County.....	17 50
		Balance in Treasury from last year.....	\$ 71 15
			<u>\$732 65.</u>

*Money Paid Out of Treasury for 1892 and 1893.*

1892.					
Nov. 17.	Briggs & Fish, Stenographing.....	\$100	00		
" 17.	R. D. McGonnigle, Ex. Leg. Committee.....	20	00		
1893.					
Jan. 24.	Adam B. Rieser, " " " .....	9	40		
" 24.	E. B. Gould, " " " .....	75	00		
" 24.	L. C. Colborn, " " " .....	25	00		
Feb. 7.	George Linderman, " " " .....	20	00		
" 7.	W. T. Shephard, " " " .....	22	10		
Mar. 16.	J. D. Carr, " " " .....	63	00		
" 16.	Robert D. McGonnigle, for services at Erie Convention, fare on railroad, printing, postage, etc.....	106	02		
May 27.	Myers, Shinkle & Co., printing report, etc.....	100	00		
July 5.	Miss Ada Hall, monographing.....	50	00		
Sept. 8.	Myers, Shinkle & Co., printing report, etc.....	50	00		
" 13.	L. C. Colborn, preparing program, railroad fare, etc.....	25	00		
	E. Hunter, stenographing.....	25	00		
	Expenses of Treasurer.....	25	00	650	70
Balance in the treasury to date.....				\$ 17	13

We, the undersigned committee, appointed by the Convention of the Poor, at Williamsport, Pa., October 17, 18 and 19, 1893, to audit the account of the Treasurer, do certify that we have examined the receipts and expenditures, and find them correct, leaving a balance in the hands of the treasurer of seventeen dollars and thirteen cents (\$17.13).

C. B. SWISHER,  
S. M. SHILLITO,  
O. B. MACKNIGHT,  
*Committee.*

WILLIAMSPORT, Oct. 18, 1893.

President Colborn announced that the request for a discussion on the site selected for the new School for Feeble Minded Children in Western Pennsylvania at Polk, Venango county, had been postponed until this time.



## AFTERNOON SESSION.

*Mr. Wilson (Beaver):* On the question that we had before us, as I understand it, the committee appointed to select this site have already reported. I am reliably informed that the report of the Commission has been in the hands of the Governor and has been approved by him, and that it is now in the hands of the Board of Public Charities, with a request to report upon it within a week. It looks now very much as if any action on the part of this Convention would be futile, unless the Board of Public Charities can be prevailed upon not to approve the site. To bring this matter before the Convention in a business way, I would move that a committee of three be appointed by the Chair to lay before the Board of Public Charities their complaint, and try to prevail upon them to disapprove of the location selected by the Commission appointed by the Governor.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* Last year Dr. Kerwin prepared the bill providing for the erection of the institute for the care of feeble minded children in Western Pennsylvania, and it was passed by the Legislature almost as drawn. The territory for which it was to provide is known as the Dixmont and Warren Hospital Districts. But in the passage that was stricken out, leaving the dividing line between the east to be arranged between the managers and the Board of Public Charities. A circular was prepared and sent to all the members of our Association, and to every Children's Aid Society, asking them to see their members and Senators to secure their support to the bill. It was passed just at the close of the session, and the Governor signed it shortly afterwards, and in a day or so appointed his Commission, which consisted of five very reputable gentlemen, but I am free to say none of them were identified with the efforts to secure this legislation, and so far as I know none of them have had any interest in any charity or charitable institution in Western Pennsylvania.

I don't think any one of them had ever given the work five minutes thought, or had ever been in a feeble-minded institution.

The ladies of the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania came to me and said when the Commission was appointed they would like me to appear before the Commission, representing them, and explain as far as I could what the needs of the institution would be, and endeavor to have them select a site in every way desirable for the work that the institution had to do. I told the ladies I would, provided it was agreeable to the Commission, and they wrote to one of the Commission, and I think he advised them that they would consider any suggestions they had to offer, and would be pleased to confer with me, representing them. I wrote to the secretary, telling him what the ladies wanted me to do, and if agreeable to the Commission I would be pleased to see them. He replied July 17th, saying the Commission would meet on the 24th of July, in Pittsburgh, and he would present my request, and that was the last I ever heard from him with reference to it. Then I wrote him again a letter, giving him my ideas, explaining to him how the bill originated and was passed, what work it was intended to do, the territory it was intended to cover, the number of children in the various localities, then in Elwyn, that would be transferred there, etc. On August 2nd he acknowledged the receipt of that letter, and that was all I ever heard from him.

I then wrote another member of the Commission a similar letter, and explained to him that I thought it should be located somewhere within fifty miles of Pittsburgh. He asked if I could suggest such a site as I had in mind. I told him I knew where there was good property, but that I had no property to sell and I didn't want anyone to think I had. I told him I thought they could find a site about Ligonier, within fifty miles of Pittsburgh, at the foot of the mountains and in an agricultural community, but so far as I know they made no effort to secure it. Then I took it upon myself to send word to some gentlemen who own property in the Ligonier valley that this Commission was looking for a piece of land, and I believed they had the land that would suit them. They sent their agent to the meeting of the Commission at the Monongahela House in the latter part of September. They declined to consider it. They met in Pittsburgh on the second of October, and this gentleman met them

there, and they still declined to consider any proposition with reference to the property. One gentleman that submitted a proposition to them, said they never even acknowledged it. The fact is, it seems to me, that that institution was bound to go to Venango county, without regard to the wishes of the friends of the measure or to the requirements of the district.

And when you come to consider the work it has to do, you will agree with me that Venango county is entirely out of the question and unsuitable.

On the 30th of September, 1892, there were 111 children in the Elwyn Institute from the territory that is to be provided for by the new institution, thirty-six of them coming from Allegheny county alone, while from Venango county there was but eight children, so that the institution should be located some place where it would be the greatest accommodation to the greatest number. Allegheny county has thirty-six children, and taking the adjoining counties—Beaver, Westmoreland and Washington—they have forty-nine, or forty-four per cent. of the whole number. Taking Venango county and the adjoining counties there is only twenty-four per cent.

To reach this site in Venango county, it will take, by any route, one change of cars from Pittsburgh, and by another route two and another three changes of cars, and I am told it would take one day going and one coming back.

Now, I submit that this is not fair, and that the interests of the friends of this measure should be considered. I think we should protest to the Board of Public Charities against this site, and insist upon a site being selected that will be suitable to the work that the institution has to do, and somewhere near the center of population where the greatest number of children will have the smallest number of miles to travel.

*Mr. Byers (Mercer):* I don't take quite the view of this matter that Mr. McGonnigle does. In the first place, this Association has worked for twenty years to get a feeble minded institution established in western Pennsylvania. Our Senator fathered the bill in the Senate, and worked it through. We expected, in Mercer county, that it would be located in that county. We had

several good sites. The Commission was appointed. They are good men. I know nowhere you could find more able men. Judge Heydrick and Judge Jenks have national reputations, but not in the line of feeble minded institutions. They viewed in all about thirty-five sites, and spent nearly all summer looking this matter up. Finally, on the last day, when the law required them to make a selection, they selected Polk, Venango County, nine miles from Franklin. It is a pretty little valley. It is a good place to spend some money for the State to make it better. It is about half a day's travel from Pittsburgh. You can start in the morning and get there a little after noon. The Governor has approved of that site, and now, if you appoint a committee to object, all this work will fall through. Here is an appropriation of \$250,000 and a chance to get a feeble minded institution. Supposing the objection is made and the Governor withdraws his approval, it looks to me as if it would fall through right now.

Now, where is there one of the other institutions in Pennsylvania that is placed in the center of the district that it represents? It takes us two days, within two counties of Warren, to go there with a patient. And it would cost us \$50 to take a patient to Wernersville.

And the same to Elwyn. Now I object to appointing a committee to object to this site. While I don't think it the most desirable site that could have been selected, by any means, still we are willing to accept this rather than none at all.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* I haven't much doubt but what the site will be approved, but I think it is due to ourselves that we protest against it. If they decline to approve of this site I can't see why it should fall to the ground. Whether our protest amounts to anything or not, we should enter it.

*Mr. Carr (Fayette):* Wouldn't it be as well to have a committee of three appointed to draft a set of resolutions to present to the Board of Charities with regard to this? We are opposed to the site as being very inconvenient. We have a number of children in the school at Elwyn that will have to be transferred, and others in the care of the Aid Society in our county that should be



at Elwyn, but they are overcrowded and we can't get them there.

It seemed strange, indeed, that a bill would be passed and in twenty-four hours after its passage a Commission appointed to select a site, and those men entirely unacquainted with the origin of the measure or anything pertaining to it.

Judge Heydrick, the chairman of the Commission, is undoubtedly an excellent gentleman, but my opinion in regard to the site is that it is nothing more or less than a large briar patch ; a place purchased by some speculators as an oil territory, and they failed to find oil, and were ready to dispose of it to the State. And by the time it is in a tillable condition the chances are it will be a dear site. For our county, therefore, we desire to protest against this selection whether or not it avails anything. It is right and proper that this Convention, where the matter originated, and where its friends are, should protest against the action of this Commission.

*Mr. Brumbaugh (Blair) :* I was with the Representative three or four times during the session at Harrisburg who presented the bill in the House—Hon. J. S. Stayer, of Blair—and I told him it was very necessary that the proper persons should be on that Commission. He told me that he had it taken to the Governor for his signature, but he had to come home, and a day or so afterwards he went over, expecting that they were deliberating upon who should be the Commission, and he called and found that the Governor wasn't in. He called on the Governor's secretary, and he told him the Commission was already appointed. He wrote me at once, and told me who they were. And I, as a representative from our county, undertook to reprimand him for allowing a Commission of that kind to be appointed, and he says, " We were all surprised."—Senator Fruit and all who were concerned, that after they had done that work that the Governor should wholly ignore the friends of the measure and appoint a Commission from the western part of the State, where he certainly knew they would be personally interested.

Such a Commission should be wholly free from any interests. As already said, these gentlemen, Judges Hedrick and Jenks, and Messrs. Guthrie and Hall, are all gentlemen of high stand-

ing, but what do they know about this institution? Why should Dr. Kerlin, who has spent his life in the work, be ignored? and why should a gentleman who has given so much time and concern to this matter be ignored?

As to the location, we expected to have it somewhere this side of Pittsburgh, instead of going away to the extreme northwest, and we, as representatives from Blair, do most earnestly protest against the location.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* The territory was intended to be the Warren and Dixmont Hospital districts, but it was understood that the counties of Blair, Bedford and Clearfield would be added to those districts. That makes a straight line almost north and south through the State, so you should include those counties in this district.

A vote on the motion to have a committee appointed was here taken and agreed to.

Mr. McGonnigle moves that this committee be instructed to call on Mr. Biddle and Mr. O'Neil, who are present, representing the Board of Public Charities, and ask the Board of Charities to take no action on this matter until they hear from this committee. The motion is agreed to.

The Convention was here entertained by singing by ten little girls from the Industrial School for Girls, at Williamsport, which elicited hearty applause, to which they responded with an encore.

Mr. Colborn called Mr. R. D. McGonnigle to the chair, who read his report on "The Work of the Association during the past year," as follows:

*Mr. President, ladies and gentlemen:* To me has been assigned the subject of "The Work of the Association for the Past Year," or rather to recount to you what has been accomplished through the organization, directly or indirectly, since our meeting at Erie. The meeting at Erie will be remembered as the best that was ever held, the influence of which was greater than any former, and brought about more reforms, created a greater interest in the

work of caring for the poor, and was the means of bringing about legislation that was much needed.

We might, in taking a retrospective survey of what has been done and accomplished, respond, "Well done."

The influence of the Erie meeting has followed us ever since, and has incited us to greater efforts and has helped us to perform our duties better.

The meeting at Erie brought about the holding of the conference of children in Philadelphia January 26, 1893, followed by the convention of the Children's Aid in Western Pennsylvania, held at Pittsburgh, in June, while county conventions were held by the same societies in Chester, Lackawanna, Venango, Washington and others, all productive of much good. Did you ever stop to think what a short duration of time a year is?

But the year is gone. Did it ever strike you how much meaning lies in that little monosyllable "gone"?

Say it to yourself at nightfall when the sun has sunk under the western hills and the crickets chirp "gone."

Say it to yourself when the night is far advanced and you wake with a sudden start from pleasant dreams, "gone."

Say it to yourself in some country churchyard, where your father or your mother sleeps under the blooming violets of spring—"gone."

Say it to yourself in your sobbing prayer to heaven, as you cling lovingly, but oh, how vainly, to the hand of a loving child or sweet wife—"gone."

There is much meaning in it. What is gone? As we look back over the years do we recount many lost opportunities that are gone by which we might have lightened the burdens of some unfortunate, or through our own carelessness heaped cares and toils on others which we should have borne?

Have we deafened our ears to the cries of "bread," the cup of "cold water," or withheld our counsel from the care of God's poor, and we cry in despair, "gone?"

Or have we grasped the golden opportunities of days, weeks and months that are passed and bound them into golden sheaves of blessings that will bring joy to the disconsolate; relief to the afflicted; ease the burdens of the oppressed; bread to the hungering; water to those who thirst; sympathy and help to the poor and distressed; light to the blind; hearing to the deaf, and last a hope of an eternal life and an occupancy of the mansion eternal in the heavens whose builder and maker is God?

Association means organization. Organization means work, and work creates and gives influence, and through influence great things are accomplished. One of the great objects sought to be

obtained through the Erie Convention was the desire to have certain legislation passed at our last session of the Legislature, and what was accomplished was brought about by and through the influence of the Association of the Directors of the Poor.

The Act of Assembly approved June, 1893, to provide for the selection of a site and the erection of a State institution for the feeble-minded, to be called the Western Pennsylvania State Institute for the Feeble Minded, and making an appropriation, is one that we have all been working for, and is the direct result of that Convention.

In addition to the above, that is of direct interest to the Directors of the Poor, is the Act approved the 14th day of April, 1893, which is to provide for the better protection of female insane patients in transit; an Act for the relief of needy sick, injured and, in case of death, burial of indigent persons whose legal place of settlement is unknown, approved 6th of June, 1893; an Act approved the 23d of May, 1893, providing for the erection of the Pennsylvania Soldiers' Orphans' Industrial School.

While this provides only for soldiers' orphans, we applaud the movement. What we want is the establishment of such schools, and if it is successful it can be extended so as to include all orphans and indigent children in charity institutions as well as all poor and indigent children of the State.

An Act approved the 4th day of May, 1893, to further regulate the admission of inmates to the home established for disabled and indigent soldiers. This Act will relieve many of the poorhouses of many who deserve better places, many whose deeds of valor and heroism, if known to the world, would open the doors of not only charitable institutions, but of gilded palaces.

An Act approved the 26th day of May, 1893, regulating the fees to be charged for the adoption of minors and entering the order of court thereon. This will be of benefit to the Children's Aid Society in their work, this protecting them from excessive charges of both attorneys and officers.

The Acts approved 2d and 6th of June, 1893, making appropriations for the Children's Aid work of magnificent sums of money which will enable them to liquidate their present indebtedness and carry on their noble work to farther and greater accomplishments, thus showing to the people of this grand old Commonwealth the high appreciation in which their work is held.

Besides the Acts of Assembly I have just named, which bear directly upon the work that we are interested in and affect us most, the Legislature has been most profuse in her appropriations to almost every institution that dispenses charity or reaches out her



sheltering arm to care for the afflicted and help the unfortunate. In fact appropriations have been made to help, aid, encourage and assist every phase of charitable work.

We may not be able to see and realize the good that the influence of our meetings is having throughout the land.

The whole system of charity work has been revolutionized within the space of a very short time. Let every one take a retrospective view and compare the condition of affairs in regard to the poor in each county ten or fifteen years ago with that of the present. It would be appalling to you, and we forever draw the curtain upon the scene. It is said that the good men do live after them, but the evil is interred with their bones. Whether this be true or not I will not stop to inquire, but I desire to say that the good that has been done in our Convention will live long after each one shall be called from labor and the scenes of action, and will be remembered and cherished in the hearts of friends who will take up the work and carry it on to greater perfection until there shall be no need of Conventions of this kind. Longfellow, in his beautiful poem, entitled the "Arrow Song," has beautifully set forth the thought.

The above report was received with applause.

Mrs. J. L. Anderson read the following paper, prefacing it by saying: This is the first time I have had the honor to appear before this Convention, but I feel that I am like the politician, "I am in the hands of my friends."

Gentlemen, you know that in this mad rush of business you haven't the time to investigate the homes that we have. We always investigate a home before a child is placed in it. Michael Angelo was said once to display great love for a piece of plain marble; when asked why, he said: "I see in it the form of an angel." Are there not greater possibilities for us in these children?

It is always a pleasure to meet persons interested in charitable work. "The charity that suffereth long and is kind" is the bond that unites us.

You all know something of the Children's Aid Society, its work and workings, and this has been sufficient, I am sure, to awaken an interest in behalf of the helpless children so often left homeless and uncared for, and at a time when most needing the care and training of loving friends.

This we feel is found only in its most perfect sense within the precincts of home life or family plan of care. Our work must be one of Christian love. Upon any other basis we can have no hope of success.

We will all concede that the greatest force in the world is love. Actuated by it, filled with its sweetness and power, let us extend helping hands to these helpless little ones, and there will be healing in the touch.

This is essentially an age of combinations, or organizations, for almost every conceivable purpose. Some good, others doubtful, and some injurious in the results obtained. There is no question but that organizations for charitable purposes overcome giant obstacles and produce effects that are wonderful in their results. To-day thousands of women, inspired by the example of their sisters in the past, have enlisted heart and soul in this great work. These have caught the spirit of the Master, who went about doing good, and in loving obedience to His command, "Follow Me!" are striving in their day and generation to lift humanity to a higher plane.

Of all the numerous societies having this object in view, none should appeal more to the heart, exciting its compassion and sympathy, than the one which has been formed to help children of all ages and races by surrounding them with an atmosphere of love, educating and saving them from ruin. I mean the Children's Aid Society.

Now comes the question, "What provision should be made for children in our poor houses and charitable institutions not placed out?" We, as a society, are willing to assist our Directors and Overseers of the Poor in this matter, but at the same time we expect the help and co-operation of these gentlemen. If we take these children we will endeavor to place them in homes. Until such homes can be procured they must be boarded and cared for. We will visit them, care for their clothing, and have a general care over them. If any of them are in need of hospital treatment, our hospitals are always open to them. But all this means something on your part. It means financial aid, sympathy and co-operation.

We find a class of delinquent children that we know not where to place. What shall be done with them is an open question. Do not imagine that saving a few dollars for your county and neglecting your poor is a good financial investment. It is not. The more neglected children, the more wicked men and women, the more criminals, the more drunkards, the more paupers; consequently the more hospitals, jails and penitentiaries required. Hence, the more taxation, the more appropriations.

Remember, all this work needs money to carry it on. The Scripture saith: "There is that which scattereth and yet increaseth. And there is that withholdeth more than is meet, but it tendeth to poverty."

J. Sharpe Wilson, of Beaver, R. D. McGonnigle, of Pittsburgh, and John D. Carr, of Fayette, were here appointed a committee to wait upon the Board of Charities and protest against the location of the institution for feeble minded children in Venango county.

Mrs. L. P. Wilson, of Altoona, read the following paper:

In the early part of this century, Frederick Froebel, the German philosopher, declared the genius of mankind is two sexed, but a long period had gone by, during which the world had received its stamp from the male half only, and the result is that many fields are barren, large tracts parched and arid. The dews of emotion and love can alone refructify them. A cry is going up on all sides, calling to the slumbering second genius of humanity to awake and appealing to the love force of woman for redeeming works. The cry of children calls to the hearts of mothers that *here* is the material out of which they may build up a new generation which shall impart the spirit of moral greatness and dignity to the beautified outward world so that the body may not remain without a soul.

It seems in the latter part of this century, which many are pleased to designate Woman's Century, that as woman is slowly coming into her heritage of education, that as her intellect has expanded and science and religion and philanthropy have illuminated her life, the radiations therefrom have made all feel the power and sanctity of the motherhood, or as Froebel calls it, her love force. As it has gone out from her own family circle it seems to have had its most happy and forceful issue in the society which we have the honor to represent—The Children's Aid Society. Those of us who have worked for its advancement, have seen the work crowned with success; we have seen it take its place, rightfully, in the front rank—indeed we feel that it leads; it is the ideal way to care for the homeless and the unfortunate children of our commonwealth. Its ranks are swelled from week to week by children of our worthy poor, whose weary heads and hearts have ceased to beat with anxious care for these little ones, and they are left to battle alone. We feel that no better plan could be suggested than the one already in operation among us, of put-

ting these solitary ones into families where the love that has been denied them by their natural protectors may be supplied from the abundance of some other mother heart. If this class alone were to be considered there would be no cause to write this paper, but along with the poor and unfortunate come the delinquent class, children whose first breaths were drawn amidst squalor and moral degradation; many of them the children of prostitutes, drunkards, semi-idiot and epileptics, the only thing they own by inheritance is tainted blood and if they have been so unfortunate as to have lived two, four, six, or ten years, alternately starved and overfed, amidst sights and sounds that pierce their bodies with a thousand wounds—these little frames already wasted by weak nerves and abnormal appetite for stimulants—their condition is pitiable in the extreme. What is to be done with them? These children cannot be put out into families. The agent of a society that would place a child whom he or she knew to be morally tainted, a child whose vicious habits may be imitated by the children among whom it is put, is guilty of a crime against society, and an organized society that would countenance such a procedure is a menace to the public good.

In our zeal for the welfare of the child we must never forget the duty that we owe to humanity, of doing the greatest amount of good to the greatest number. And now the question that has arisen and that will continue foremost till some way is provided, is, what is to be done with this class of children? There is not a society represented in this audience that has not had them to deal with. I make a low estimate when I say that at least one-fourth of the children that come under the Children's Aid Society are of this class, and as the work grows upon us from month to month, we discuss this very serious question. By putting them into families where there are no children we have tried in a measure to overcome the situation, but there are continually coming complaints from the caretakers of these children that their habits are filthy, they steal and lie, they are lazy and stupid and nobody wants them. We try them first in one home, then in another, only to be met with the same complaints. In a few exceptional cases we have found a woman who will attempt to cope with the boy as she finds him, but they are the exception.

After a careful consideration of the subject it seems to us that some temporary home must be provided for these children where they can have medical attention to begin with; along with this should come training by competent and experienced teachers where the starved body may have proper diet, where moral defects are corrected and intellectual training given, suited to the age of the child. Do not misunderstand me; I no more favor insti-



tution life as it is carried on in some of our large cities than the most ultra believer in the family plan present. But I do favor a State training school with a hospital attached and I know that many of our earnest workers agree with me. Into this State school all children should be put to stay long enough to have their habits thoroughly investigated. If the child proves to be sound physically and morally, put it into a home as we are now doing, where it will stand as good a chance as any child to grow up into a respectable man or woman. If we could have the same chance with normal children who have contracted bad habits through ignorance that is given to abnormal children, the results would be astounding.

It is a difficult matter to get our children into hospitals, owing to the crowded condition of many of them, and some of the work that has been accomplished by our society has been undone by incompetent caretakers after patients have been discharged from hospitals. Months were spent in one of our western hospitals straightening the limbs of a helpless girl, when she was on a fair way to recovery she was discharged as convalescent. The society could do nothing but send her back to her mother, who was a good enough woman of her kind but totally ignorant of how to care for her daughter, so with tampering with the braces and giving improper food, the girl is now back where she was and even worse, for now she is a helpless, hopeless cripple. If she could have been sent to a school such as I have described and put into the hospital she had the one chance of her life to become self-supporting. As it is, she is a helpless charge to her county and will be while she lives. It is well to consider the matter from an economic standpoint. A boy who was a pupil of mine, at eight years of age as bright and lovable a boy as I ever saw, who could have been trained into a useful member of society by proper environment, is now an inmate of the penitentiary for one of the blackest crimes on the calendar, and he has already cost his county more than any training possibly could have cost. He is young yet and the probabilities are, unless he dies before he serves his sentence he will be much more expense to the Commonwealth. His home was a travesty on the name, his father brutal and drunken. We have in Blair county at the present a white girl, fourteen years of age, who is the mother of a colored infant seven months old; what possibility is there here for keeping alive the bond between mother and child? The infant is in a respectable colored family as a boarder. What shall be done with this depraved mother? When we investigated the case we found it was through no fault of hers that she has lead the life of a prostitute; she was rescued from the poorhouse at the tender age of four, and

committed by the mayor ten years later. There was no Children's Aid Society in Blair county at that time.

There is necessity you see for increasing vigilance from somewhere till these children pass the quicksands of youth. Semi-annual visiting will not do it; weekly visiting will not answer; nothing but daily, hourly intercourse between these unfortunates and teachers who know how to deal with these unspeakable vices of even little children. Can the Poor Boards that are here represented join with us in building such a school? A school that shall be the step between a former life of degradation and one of virtue and honor. Can this question be agitated in our several counties till our law makers shall be led to see that they build best who build for future generations as well as for the present.

Can the Auxiliary of the Children's Aid Societies of Pennsylvania and that of West Pennsylvania join hands in this our common need. This plan has been successfully carried into effect in the State of Michigan, where it seems vagabondism and pauperism have been greatly reduced. The scheme has been followed successfully in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Rhode Island; shall Pennsylvania not be the next to fall in line? Can the Directors of the Poor not give the hearty co-operation to this plan that they have given in many counties of the State to the work of the Children's Aid Society? If you will pardon an allusion to my own county of Blair, I want to state that nowhere in Pennsylvania has the Poor Board been more liberal and more helpful than they have been there. The last year has been an especially successful one in our society and we must give our directors all the credit, for without their substantial assistance in the way of finances we could not have done the work. They have realized what an assistance we have been to them in caring for the children. Said one of them to me a short time ago: "Your society has not only done the work better than we could have done it, but you have saved us hundreds of dollars and who shall say what has been the saving to society, to morality, and to God.

ALTOONA, Oct. 15, 1893.

*Mr. John D. Carr*, (Fayette): At Erie I took occasion to introduce a resolution providing for the establishment of an Industrial School together with soldiers' orphans, or that the soldiers' orphan schools be continued with the industrial training, and the admission of indigent children. The Convention took no action on the question then.

The gentleman who had charge of the matter, however, intro-

duced a bill in the last Legislature with these provisions: The first bill provided for the erection of an Industrial Training School for soldiers' orphans, into which should be admitted such children as you have heard referred to in the last paper, for whom homes cannot be found and places cannot be secured. After the bill was introduced that feature of it was stricken out and it passed, providing for the erection of an Industrial Training School for soldiers' orphans. Had it remained at it was originally introduced the time would not have been far distant when the Ladies' Aid Societies would have been relieved of this troublesome class of children.

There seemed to be considerable opposition manifested to the measure at Erie, and some of it I am sorry to say, on the part of the Ladies of the Aid Society, who I suppose hadn't then had the experience that they have since had, or, had given the matter no thought. They come here to-day, however, with a very able paper asking for just such provisions as were then contended for. I think if the bill had had the endorsement of this Convention then it would have been passed in its original form. The State has generously provided, for years, for the education and training of soldiers' orphans, and I can see no reason why there should be added to that favored class the class of children spoken of in the last paper. A home where they may be trained and educated and made men and women fit for society, instead of outcasts and criminals. They are the class that require the attention of the poor authorities more than any other class, because they are paupers from infancy and grow up paupers and criminals. I hope such action will be taken as will admit them into the school now being erected for the care of soldiers' orphans.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* We have had this same thing before us for some years. We all admit that the family life is the natural life, but the paper just read makes it so plain that I think any one will see that there are a class of children who have to be put through some temporary home or school, before they can go into the family.

There are families that should be broken up; that are practically vagrants, paupers by instinct, and yet have committed no

crime and you cannot arrest them, and there is no way, unfortunately, to separate them. If we had some law whereby such a family could be broken up and the children taken from such parents and placed in an institution like the one Mrs. Wilson and Mr. Carr have referred to—placed there and built up morally, physically and socially and put in shape to go in families; it is what is needed. If any of them are defective they should be sent to Elwyn and if vicious to the House of Refuge.

Just before I left home I was sent a copy of the proceedings of the Superintendents of the Poor of Michigan. They have there a State Public School for the care of dependents and delinquent children, and the statement is made that Michigan to-day has fewer paupers in her almshouses than she had twenty years ago. Now that seems to speak volumes in favor of the State Public School. In Michigan they have an agent in every county to look after the children that are placed out. Here we have the Children's Aid Society to do the work of the agent, so we are well equipped, and I do most heartily endorse the paper and also Mr. Carr's remarks.

As the case now stands the State says, practically, to every boy and girl: "We cannot do anything for you until you commit a crime, and then we will care for you at the Reform School." That is not right; they should take care of them before they commit a crime, and they should establish a school where poverty, not crime, is the price of admission.

Mrs. C. J. Bruner, of Blair, here read the following letter from a physician as to the boys:

*Mrs. Price:* Mrs. Bernard, with myself, visited the jail in Blair County and found seven boys committed for first offenses. These two brothers were in one cell. We felt there was something wrong with one of them, and at our request the jail physician made an examination and this is his answer. We are anxious to know what to do with George, the younger one, who is but ten years old. The home isn't fit to return him to. No place to put him.



MRS. C. G. BRUNER,

1307 Fourteenth avenue, Altoona, Pa.

*Madam:* I have examined George and John Smay—confined in the Blair County prison—charged with *horse stealing*, and find George is about seventeen years old and undoubtedly feeble-minded, and has no moral conception of the affairs of life; and although seems to know right from wrong, does not know how to pursue either course. He cannot read, write or spell, and although has been at the soldiers' orphan schools for several years I doubt very much if he can be taught anything beyond the animal.

John is about ten years old and I think would have been quite a different boy if he had a home where he could have some of the ordinary training, and decent people to live with. He is not bright but has sufficient intellectuality to make his way through the world. He is not feeble-minded and should be sent to the soldiers' orphan schools.

Am sorry you could not see me this morning.

Very respectfully yours,

G. W. SMITH.

The following address of Mrs. H. Lee Mason was here read by Mrs. Belle K. Richards, of Venango :

#### REFORMATORY WORK.

A meeting of this kind is always pleasant, workers coming together to consider the problem of helping the poor and to discuss and decide upon the best means of bettering their condition. They are ever with us, for it is the Divine decree that part of the human family shall be deprived of those blessings that bring comfort and happiness to the door, and this assembly proves that the minds of the people of this Commonwealth are alive to their distress.

In all well organized work branches are established and we find institutions, hospitals and societies, charities without number, and it is gratifying to think of the benefits conferred and relief given. But there is another class that must be taken into the heart before the words "well done" can be deserved, the class composed of the prisoners and captives. God's children all, although far astray from the right path, enclosed in prison walls, the past one long line of shadows, the future all gloom. So they stand before us condemned and self-condemning on the dark side of life, no association with loving friends, no enjoyment of liberty so dear to man.

It would be useless to assert that there is no necessity for institutions of reform, for the fact that they are necessary is well known, and the laws enacted for protection from the vicious are just and reasonable, and without them it would be impossible to live in the security so essential, but the question arises, "Who are the criminals, and at what age do we expect to find them?"

The Children's Aid Society has taken up this question and has begun an investigation in the endeavor to ascertain the causes for the commitment of so many children to Reformatories, and as a result of this investigation its representatives protest against the laxity of the law that allows the unsupported testimony of two persons to plunge into schools of reform those who have never been fit subjects for punishment, and who have been committed solely to accommodate heartless parents and guardians who wish to rid themselves of the burden of support of those for whom they have no feeling but that of dislike or hatred. It has become a common occurrence to read in the daily papers accounts of the young being placed in houses of correction, and sometimes one is amazed at the strange stories told to magistrates of unmanageable little ones of such tender age that in all properly regulated families would be shielded from every grief. Men and women to all appearance able to conquer in combat with almost any foe, upon oath declaring that children, so small and frail one imagines they could be crushed with the hand, are beyond control, and the State is asked to protect them from the troubles brought about by these unfortunates, and a few weeks ago a boy of thirteen years was sentenced to the State prison by a judge in Western Pennsylvania, there to live with the most desperate criminals of whom we have any knowledge. Think of it, fathers and mothers! Is not the State of Pennsylvania large enough, broad enough, and rich enough to provide some other shelter for a bad boy than the penitentiary? The Act recently passed by our Legislature, "Authorizing the commitment of minors by Magistrates, Justices of the Peace or Judges, to certain charitable societies," will in a measure prevent much injustice, but societies for child-care must be on the alert.

The facts herein set forth were learned through personal inquiry and visitation. Of the children in the Reform School at Morganza, almost seventy-five per-cent. were committed as a consequence of remarrying; that is, by stepfathers and stepmothers, the inmates ranging from eight years old upward, and one case is recorded of a girl of five years being placed there as incorrigible. Upon investigation it was discovered that the father wished to marry a second time, but the woman of his choice would consent only on condition that the child be disposed of. She was allowed

to remain in the school for the purpose of protection and to save her from the abuse that might be her lot. A Kindergarten gives pleasure as well as instruction to the younger members, and it is evident the Directors are doing all that can be done for the welfare of those in their charge, but the willingness expressed to co-operate with this society, (manifest not only in their approval of its promised efforts to provide elsewhere for these children, but also of its offer to try and protect those going out on parole) is a welcome endorsement of the feeling of indignation that is the mainspring of this movement. The authorities at the Huntington Reformatory have also kindly sympathized with our undertaking. No charges of neglect or cruelty are made, but we ask how it will be when the present has passed into futurity and men and women stand in the footprints of the boys and girls of to-day. Who can wipe out the stigma of gone by imprisonment, especially of girls, who will in all probability endure great hardship when released, for doors will not open for them nor will homes stand ready to take them in. It is not easy to say at what age children shall be placed in reformatories, but this plea is made, that *all* unite in rescuing the guiltless, that the stain left by the commitment of infants to penitentiaries, workhouses and reformatories may be effaced by the condemnation of unprincipled persons who dare to attempt such outrages on justice.

The Children's Aid Societies are progressing successfully, and to those Directors of the Poor who have been their friends the managers return most grateful thanks, and they ask those who have stood aloof to come forward and join hands in caring for the children, the wayward and incorrigible as well as the innocent and pure, and they promise to do with their might whatever their hands find to do.

Mrs. Anderson read the following letter by request from a boy who had come into her charge, and who was now in the Reformatory at Huntingdon, more on account of dependence than crime, and Mrs. Anderson said she thought the letter would make it plain that he was worth saving :

*My Dear Friend:* I am getting along well, and I am in good health and strength. I was promoted to the first grade this month, and I now have the use of a pen and ink, and also a set of shoe brushes and blacking. School commenced the 5th of this month, and I am in the A 2 Class. I study history, arithmetic, grammar, civil government, physiology, and we have spelling lessons twice a week. Mr. George D. Bert, who is from Pitts-



burgh, has been appointed Deputy Superintendent. He was Deputy Warden of the Allegheny County Workhouse for a number of years. I still go to Sunday School and church and the Bible class. Last Sunday the Rev. James Morrow, D. D., of Philadelphia, General Secretary of the Pennsylvania Bible Society, preached in chapel. He selected for his text, 2d Cor., 20th verse, "As though God did beseech you." He was very eloquent, and seems to be a very pleasant man. Next Saturday Charles F. Underhill, of Brooklyn, N. Y., the noted reader and impersonator, is going to give us an entertainment in the evening at 7 o'clock. On Thursday evening, September 21st, we had the pleasure of listening to a lecture on "Scandinavia," by Mr. Niels L. J. Grove, a native Scandinavian, a graduate of Pennsylvania College, at Gettysburg. He is a very agreeable speaker. He talks distinctly and pleasantly. I am sorry to learn from your letter that there was sickness in your home, and hope it was not serious. As you remark in your letter that I must be interested in the World's Fair is quite right; but my chief thought is about what they will do with all them buildings after the fair is over. I can't think that they will leave them go to waste, or anything like that, and about the only thing I can think of for it is for a circus to make its headquarters there. I wish that you will be able to visit it in a short time. I am afraid that you will have some difficulty in reading this letter, as I am not very used to writing with a pen, having so long used a pencil. Hoping that this will find you well in health and strength, I remain

Yours, respectfully,

The following papers were here read: One by Miss C. H. Pemberton, of Philadelphia, on "Work of the Children's Aid Societies for the Past Year," and one by Mrs. Walton, the paper of Miss Jane T. Bernard, on "The Proper Education of Children's Aid Society children." The papers were received with applause.

The law which forbids the detention of children in almshouses was passed in 1883, and in the same year the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania was chartered, and at once hastened to assist in carrying out the wise provisions of this law.

From the first this society felt that its obligations were to the State as well as to the city, and devoted much of its time and money to the extension of the work from one end of the State to the other, using for that purpose not only the small appropriation



granted by the Legislature, but also a considerable portion of those funds which had been donated by the good people of Philadelphia.

Thus in 1884 branch organizations were started in Chester and Lebanon Counties, and in '85 similar societies were organized in Allegheny, Bucks and Montgomery. The following year the work was carried into twenty-six other counties, in various parts of the State, and later organizations followed year after year.

All of these organizations were not equally effective. Some languished for want of funds, some for want of interest, and not a few found it difficult to make the public and the Poor Boards understand that the work was really needed.

The representatives of the society were almost exclusively women, and the Directors of the Poor naturally felt that as they had been able all of these years to conduct the business of poor relief by themselves, they could attend to this matter of the children equally well.

But it gradually became evident that the enactment of the new law gave a larger interpretation to the duties of the Directors of the Poor.

In the case of the aged, the infirm, the imbecile and the lunatic there was but one consideration—how to make them comfortable for the present. They had no future except the pauper's grave, and the children that were born to them, or were akin to them, were part of the same degenerate stock, and there was little need apparently to think of their future either.

To be born of paupers, and to grow up among paupers, is a pretty strong argument in favor of dying among paupers, and this was the way that the public and the pauper both looked at it.

Paupers are fond of their children as well as other people, and the Poor Directors generally found it difficult and painful to separate them. So it frequently happened that the children remained in the almshouse with their parents year after year until they reached maturity and became paupers too. As many as three generations of the same family have been found under one almshouse roof.

To minister to the comfort of these poor creatures, to spend as little as possible of the taxpayers' money, and to get as many yards of calico, pounds of beef and barrels of flour in return were the problems that naturally occupied the minds of the Poor Boards.

But to these was suddenly added by the passage of the Act of 1883 a new set of duties—the care and education of children *who were not paupers*, and could not be treated as such. They were to stand henceforth on the same plane as other children, and the relation of the Poor Director to them became that of guardian,

*protector and friend*, rather than a mere administrator of public funds for their relief.

Thus the Poor Director of 1885 and '86 found his responsibilities very much increased, and it was not surprising that ere long he made the discovery that to share these responsibilities with the women of the Children's Aid Society was a perfectly legal and practical way of performing his duty as guardian.

"These women," he argued, "are not trying to do anything that takes them out of their sphere; they are simply looking after the children, and that is, after all, a woman's work." So the *happy family* was created for the good of the State and the county—consisting of the Directors of the Poor, the Children's Aid Society and the *children*, whom they both wished to serve, and it is hoped that the union may be a long and happy one.

To be a member of the Children's Aid Society does not require one to hold advanced views concerning the sex, or to have political aspirations, or to be strong-minded in anything except common sense. We all know, in our own homes, how much care and attention is necessary to bring up a child. We know that from the moment an infant is born into the world its education begins.

It absorbs impressions with every breath; it learns to smile from gazing at its mother's face, and to speak from listening to her voice.

The importance of these early impressions in the life of a human being can not be over estimated. Scientists tell us that children deprived of human society become unlike human beings, incapable of speech or language. There are cases on record of children stolen by wild beasts in India, who, when found in later years, had lost almost all resemblance to humanity—walked on all fours, ate raw flesh, and uttered sounds like the cries of the wild beasts with whom they had lived.

This does not seem like exaggeration to those who are familiar with the degraded condition of children that have been left for years in almshouses. We have received many whose condition was that of young savages, their gestures and gait uncouth, their voices harsh, and their actions modeled after the antics of lunatics and imbeciles.

What else could these unfortunates do but copy the manners and expressions of their care-takers? It has been my experience to visit most of the almshouses in Pennsylvania, and I observe that it is customary in such institutions to employ the harmlessly feeble-minded and deranged women to take care of the little children, while the able-bodied mothers, if they exist, are occupied in the kitchen and laundry.

I remember, on one occasion, coming suddenly across a little

child lying asleep in a cradle, beside which crouched a hideous creature with cropped head and idiotic countenance, leering over the unconscious child. I was told that the woman was perfectly harmless, and was very good to the baby, but was subject to fits. She was an epileptic imbecile.

Is it any wonder that under such protection these children grew further and further down into mental and moral degradation? Is it any wonder that the president of one Poor Board told me that it was no use trying to do anything with the twenty-eight children in his poorhouse, because "they were all fools?"

The effort to make even the weak-minded adults useful in their way is highly commendable, but the interests of the adult pauper without a future, and the growing child *with* a future, are forever incompatible, and you can not unite them in one system.

There is now, thank heaven, no excuse for the detention of children in almshouses. Nearly every county contains an organization existing for the benefit of these children. Some have developed into powerful and energetic societies, capable of immense good, and where the local societies do not exist, or are non-operative, the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania, with headquarters in Philadelphia, stands ready to receive any child at any time, from any part of the State, for the small sum of \$1.75 per week, all other expenses being met by the society.

Our methods of work are doubtless familiar to this Convention. We work on the family plan, as it is called, which means that it takes a whole family to take care of one child. We pay the family for the care of this child, and see that it attends school regularly, and is well clothed, happy and comfortable. Clothing and medical attendance are also paid for by the society, and we continue this expense until the child is either adopted or old enough to be self-supporting.

Besides believing in the family we also believe in the country. That is, we believe in the country family. The conditions of life in the country are not favorable to inertia. Nature turns a cold shoulder on the sluggard and says, "You may get it yourself or go without," and she repeats this theme with many variations. It is the refrain to which the country boy gets up in the early morning and goes after the cows to get his drink of fresh milk. The country cow is less accommodating than her city cousin. She does not come to the farmer's door on four wheels to ring a bell and measure out the milk and cream in separate pails. Far from it. She takes herself to the extreme end of the furthest pasture, and gets into the woods if she can, for she *knows* that she is educating, perhaps, a future statesman, and this experience may be the starting point in his career.



The first act of the *city* boy when taken to the country is to fill his pockets with the *hardest* winter apples he can knock down from the tree—but the country boy knows that it is wiser to wait until these apples are ripened by the sun, and so he looks at them from a respectful distance and makes his calculations.

For the country boy is educated in the slow processes of cause and effect, he understands the mysteries of the seasons and is accustomed to look a long way ahead. Everything that comes to him comes with effort, in exact proportion to his own exertion, and he is not afraid to follow a long road that does not seem to have any turning. It is thus that he gets his education. It is a long way up hill from the little country school house to the graduating class in the city university, but he expects to get there all the same, and we all know that he does.

The country school house and the country church are eloquent features in the country landscape. The one gives the inspiration that fills our colleges with students and our seats of learning with wise men, the other lifts a tall white finger to the sky and bids the silent toiler look upward when his work is done.

It is to these influences that we are glad to trust our children, confident that the same forces which have led the country boy to success will direct the slow, stumbling steps of the pauper's child upwards towards respectability and self-support.

Much does the city owe the country, but most of all for preserving the type of the genuine American, who can be counted upon to fight the battles of the Republic in time of war, or to vote down the corrupt legislation of the city politician in time of peace, and at all times to open his door to the child of want and crime, who, in a city of homes, is still homeless.

The country continues to send its stream of young men and women into our colleges and places of honor, where they go to make up the best forces of the nation, and in return goes back a slender stream of suffering childhood making its way into those homes which the young men and the young women have left vacant.

As the waters of the muddy pool are purified in the atmosphere of the sky and clouds, so may this stream reach purification at last, and return in due season to bless the land with refreshing deeds.

#### PROPER EDUCATION OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY CHILDREN.

It may be said to the credit of our time that never has the condition of our laboring and suffering population aroused a deeper sympathy than to-day; never more money spent in searching out



the causes that produce poverty and crime; never a stronger desire to ameliorate and relieve suffering.

But the success of our experiments is not certain. Poverty and crime still exist, and the cause is due, in a great measure, to the fact that we wait for their development before we apply the remedy. To prevent is easier and better than to cure. And this brings me to the leading subject of this paper, viz: how can we educate these children so as to prevent poverty and crime, or, at least, lessen their injurious consequences. Frederick Froebel was wise beyond his time in laying the foundation of a system which was to utilize, instead of restrain, the natural activity of children by allowing their hands and minds to work together. To lead them by gentle induction from the kindergarten to the primary school, and so on to the higher grades of education. It has been said that "the kindergarten is the starting point of every industry, science and art." "We want the education that moralizes and the instruction which enlightens, the professional training which supports." The way to this is through the free kindergartens and industrial schools. These children are frequently the offspring of irresponsible and weak-minded parents. They, therefore, appeal most pathetically to our sympathies for help.

What can we do to arrest their hereditary tendencies? Environment, if not a cure, is a great modifier. When once we come to understand its power, it will be used with greater emphasis in this work of education.

I think I may say, without risk of contradiction, that the children in the supplementary department of the Chester County Children's Aid Society have proved the most satisfactory. This department was formed to keep children out of the almshouse. They are under the *direct* control of the Aid Society, which is not held responsible, therefore, by the laws which govern county children. This department comes strictly under the head of prevention. Some experiments have been tried that have given great satisfaction. One, a colored lad, who was found to be losing his sense of hearing, which incapacitated him for service, was placed in the aural department of the Institution for the Deaf and Dumb, where first he was taught the trade of a tailor—has also learned to be a printer. Is now devoting his time to literary pursuits, taking lessons in French and Latin under the instruction of a Harvard professor. At the age of twenty is a self-respecting, gentlemanly boy, able to carry on a conversation without difficulty. What think you would have been the result had this little fellow been left to his own resources? Unable, on account of his affliction, to attend the schools of his home in West Chester, the infer-

ence is that he would have spent his time on the streets and drifted into the idle habits of his race.

Gentlemen, Directors of the Poor, the women of the Children's Aid Society need your help. They want more money to develop their plans for the proper education of these children. They want to be able, when a bright boy or girl shows unmistakable signs that with better facilities he or she might become a credit to society, instead of a drone in the great hive of industry, to afford them this help. In short, they would like to make each child a special case, according to its capacity to receive instruction. The great need of the time is *industrial schools*.

It is a sad commentary on the civilization of to-day that a State that spends so much every year to support a business that fills our almshouses and prisons makes so meagre a provision for the education of its poor children.

Let us not be satisfied until we reach an ideal *better* than we have to-day. So long as we are content there will be no hope of progress, and we will fall short of our highest conception of right and justice. In conclusion I will quote from an article in the *Friends' Intelligencer and Journal* which says: "Arthur MacDonald, a specialist in the Government Bureau of Education, has made a collection of essays on education and crime and related subjects which is of much interest. The essays, summarized and collected, are by numerous eminent authorities in both Europe and America. The tendency throughout is to emphasize the need and efficacy of early training and education as the sovereign prevention of crime. One writer says that three-fourths of those who enter prison have been conducted through neglected education. Frederick H. Wines, well known as a practical social reformer, says, seventy years experience of men, seventy years work among men, have impressed one idea upon my mind. It is that nothing can be done with men except through the *will*, and the will can be reached only through the *intelligence* and the *heart*."

While making the best of our present facilities, shall we not work together for the higher ideal—the ideal that will prevent the necessity of almshouses for children, and when the industrial school shall embrace in its curriculum all reformatory measures and ameliorating influences.

J. T. BARNARD.

Mrs. T. P. S. Wilson, of Williamsport, was called upon by the Chair, and said:

I have been interested in this work about nine years, although we haven't an organization in Williamsport, I am sorry to say. Many of us have been interested in taking the poor children to

the Home of the Friendless and doing what we could in the different institutions of the city, and I, as the wife of a city missionary, have been in many homes and know something of the degradation and misery here. We have been trying to solve the problem of what to do with these poor degraded children. I could cite case after case. The way seemed open for an Industrial School for Girls, and in 1889 the foundation of this building was laid and the first floor—and the great flood came and wrecked the building completely. Our people were discouraged, so it seemed we never could recover the courage and enthusiasm that we had before. People said: “Don’t go on with the work; it must be left, because our means are exhausted.” But we had strong faith, and I want to give that to the glory of the Lord, that we had faith to believe that if we went on the money would be forthcoming. We had \$35 in the treasury, but we went on and the money was forthcoming and before another year came this institution stood, and the ladies of the city came nobly to the rescue, and we would like to have you all visit it, to see something of the work being done in this small city. This home has the industrial idea; to take little girls of tender age, before they become bad, from homes of filth and degradation and have them instructed in the way of godliness and cleanliness and to do all kinds of work. The idea of the school is to be self supporting; to have a laundry and dressmaking department and teaching in different branches, although it has not done just that work yet.

We take these girls about ten years of age, three or four of them are older, and we get the consent of the parents for a certain number of years, I think the youngest ones are obliged to stay six years, the older ones four years, and if we only had a law so that we could get control of more children—that would compel parents to give up children in these homes where they are ill treated, which we hope will eventually be done—it would be still better. We have now 16. We have more applications, but the building isn’t large enough. We hope there will be some provision made for that. You saw the results here this afternoon, in the bright faces, and if you only see what they were when they came there and see the change, you couldn’t help but praise the Lord for it. We hope before another year to have an Indus-

trial School for Boys. That is one thing we are working for. (Applause.)

We feel the responsibility more and more of what ought to be done and is not done. Though in some cases it seems well nigh hopeless, yet we have found that some of these little ones, like lillies coming up out of the mud, are letting their light shine out in the darkness, and we believe there are great possibilities in this line.

Miss M. F. Hutchins, of Pittsburgh, is called upon by Mr. McGonnigle, he stating that this is a new feature in the Convention work, and responds as follows :

We have come to a point in this Bethesda Home where we want the assistance of this Convention. I would like to ask what are we to do with young girls who have first fallen? We have some in the home who are older in crime, and it is not wise to have them together. We have organized a society of ladies to teach them industrial work as they come in. There are young girls in their teens, who are sent to the Reform School and the Workhouse and Poor farm, whom we feel should not be sent there. If they were sent to this home first we feel that we could do them good. The back end of my yard runs to the West Penn R. R., and every morning there is a car filled with people taken to the workhouse. From Pittsburgh there are generally two wagon loads come over Wednesday mornings, and many of them are young girls and many are old in crime, and they wave their handkerchiefs and you would think there was a circus coming in, and others will cover their faces with shame. Our hearts go out to those girls. Even the older ones in crime, we find, by conversing with them, that they still have hearts, and that there is hopes of doing them good. I am happy to say that our Allegheny police force have a covered patrol wagon, which is certainly an improvement.

Then this Rosalia Home is for the young infants taken from the door steps. They take in regardless of color and we care for them until they are adopted in homes, and if there is a mother with them they keep her until there is a home provided for her and the child, and if she is not desirous of taking the child with



her the child is kept and the mother looked after in the home. In the Children's Aid Society—we feel that the three can work together—there is one of the children now boarding in a home that they have charge of. The greatest thing we have to contend with is the young girls coming under the evil influence of the older ones.

*Mr. Chas. Lawrence* (Philadelphia): I see that the experiences of those in the western part of the State are about like ours. It is one of the hardest problems to solve, what to do with these people. A young girl might be reclaimed, in a good many cases no doubt if the surroundings were conducive to that. But associations with hardened criminals isn't very helpful. A lady at the last convention read a paper and said that one of the strongest advocates in the ladies' branches once said that a girl or woman who went to any institution to have a second illegitimate child should be condemned for an indefinite period in a reformatory home. We have cases in Blockley where they come for a second and third time for that purpose. We have children brought from door steps and from lots, and ash barrels, and every place where they can store them away. As to what course is best to pursue with these girls is hard to tell. I know of no one better able to devise a plan to save fallen young women than women themselves. Man assists in the degradation of womankind; womankind should designate to mankind how that they can repair the injury, and if possible prevent its recurrence. The Ladies' Aid Society can look to the Directors of the Poor for assistance financially, I think. The children that are put out in our institution to board are paid for by the city. And I think if the Women's Aid Society would devise some plan by which the Directors of the Poor could act upon their suggestions and write to the State Board of Public Charities to make application for such relief as was necessary from the State, I have no doubt that the State Boards of Charities would do all in their power to assist, and I feel sure that the Directors of the Poor of the city would do the same. If they will put their heads together between now and the next meeting of the Convention, and formulate some plan, it will be ample time before the next meeting of the Legislature. And if they

come here as well prepared to take up their arguments as they have this time to suggest them, that is what we want to see. They have more confidence now than formerly. I am sure we would lend them all the assistance in our power.

Mrs. H. F. King presented the following resolutions from the ladies' meeting held this morning, which were read :

At a special meeting of the ladies from different organizations of the State, held October 18th, at Williamsport, representatives from Home of the Friendless, Williamsport; Children's Society, of Philadelphia; Children's Aid Society, of Montgomery County; Children's Aid Society of Chester County; Children's Aid Society of Westmoreland County; Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania; Bethesda Home, Pittsburgh; Rosalia Home, Pittsburgh; Christian Home, Allegheny, it was

*Resolved*, That we secure statistics of all resources within the State for taking care of morally weak women, and that we make use of all that are available to us from these cases, and report at the next meeting of the Directors of the Poor as to the success in meeting the demand.

*Resolved*, That we thank the citizens of Williamsport for courtesies extended to us during the Convention.

MRS. H. F. KING, Uniontown, Fayette Co.	} Com.
MRS. B. K. RICHARDS, Oil City, Venango Co.	
MRS. DR. J. K. WEAVER, Norristown, Mont. Co.	

The following report was presented by the Committee on officers, and unanimously adopted :

Your Committee respectfully submits the following :

*President.*

J. D. CARR, . . . . . Fayette County.

*Vice Presidents.*

J. F. ROBB, . . . . . Allegheny County.  
 PAUL BOHAN, . . . . . Luzerne County.  
 MRS. J. R. ANDERSON, . . . . . Pittsburgh.  
 MRS. J. C. PEMBERTON, . . . . . Philadelphia.  
 D. W. MILLER, . . . . . Lancaster County.  
 HERMAN W. GRAYBILL, . . . . . Lancaster County.

*Recording Secretary.*

W. P. HUNKER, . . . . . Allegheny.

*Corresponding Secretary.*

R. D. MCGONNIGLE, . . . . . Pittsburgh.

*Treasurer.*

JOHN S. HOPE, . . . . . Chester.

W. J. GLENN,	} Com.
J. S. STRINE,	
JOHN W. BYERS,	
SAMUEL WICKERSHAM,	

Mr. Brumbaugh, of Blair, presented the following report of the Finance Committee, and it was unanimously adopted :

*Association of the Directors of the Poor of Pennsylvania, Williamsport, October 18, 1893 :*

We, the undersigned, Committee on Finances, having examined the accounts of the Treasurer of the Association, and ascertained the probable necessary expenses for the fiscal year, we therefore recommend the following assessments on the various districts and organizations :

Adams County.....	\$ 20 00
Allegheny County.....	25 00
Allegheny City.....	25 00
Pittsburgh.....	25 00
Beaver County.....	20 00
Bedford County.....	20 00
Berks County.....	25 00
Blair County.....	20 00
Cambria County.....	20 00
Carbon County.....	20 00
Chester County.....	20 00
Crawford County.....	20 00
Erie County.....	20 00
Fayette County.....	20 00
Franklin County.....	20 00
Huntingdon County.....	20 00
Lackawanna County, Carbondale District.....	20 00
"        "        Blakely        ".....	20 00
"        "        Scranton        ".....	20 00
"        "        Larkin Township.....	5 00
Lancaster County.....	25 00
Lebanon County.....	20 00

Lehigh County.....	\$ 20 00
Luzerne County, Central Poor District.....	20 00
Lycoming County, Williamsport ".....	20 00
Mercer County.....	20 00
Montgomery County.....	25 00
Northampton County.....	20 00
Philadelphia Blockley.....	25 00
"    Germantown.....	20 00
"    Oxford and Lower Dublin.....	20 00
Schuylkill County.....	25 00
Somerset County.....	20 00
Susquehanna County, Auburn and Reyk Townships.....	5 00
Tioga County.....	20 00
Venango County.....	20 00
Washington County.....	20 00
Westmoreland.....	25 00
York County.....	20 00
Children's Aid Society Penna.....	10 00
Philadelphia Aid Society.....	10 00
Board Public Charities.....	25 00
	<hr/>
	840 00

As there are a number of townships not enumerated, it is suggested that they be requested to contribute such amounts as they may see fit.

Very respectfully submitted,

D. S. BRUMBAUGH,  
CHARLES LAWRENCE,  
BENJ. E. RIBLET,  
*Committee.*

The following resolutions, presented by Dr. Walk, of Philadelphia, were read and adopted :

#### NO. ONE.

*Resolved*, That this Convention receives with profound sorrow the sad intelligence of the death of Mrs. Charles Snyder, and tender to Mr. Snyder the sympathy of all his colleagues in this his hour of bereavement.

#### NO. TWO.

*Resolved*, That the members of this Convention have learned, with sorrow, the sad news of the untimely death of Miss Emma Garrett, which occurred at Chicago recently. In her death the mute children of the State have lost an invaluable friend, the charitable workers a wise and



earnest adviser and assistant, her associates a warm-hearted friend, and the public a generous, public spirited and Christian citizen, whose work in the Deaf-Mute School at Chester will live long and be cherished in the hearts of a host of friends.

NO. THREE.

*Resolved*, That we endorse the principle of the bill passed by the last Legislature, but vetoed by the Governor, that the State should pay an equitable share of the cost of supporting the chronic insane who are maintained by cities and counties having suitable establishments for that purpose.

NO. FOUR.

*Resolved*, That we shall give our support in furtherance of the enactment of a similar law at the next session of the Legislature.

NO. FIVE.

*Resolved*, That we favor the establishing of an institution for the care of epileptics, where they may be furnished employment and rendered as nearly as possible self supporting and which will also admit inmates upon payment by their friends of a reasonable price for their board and treatment.

NO. SIX.

*Resolved*, That we do most heartily approve of the bill for the revision of the Poor Laws of Pennsylvania, as amended and passed by the Convention, and do most earnestly urge and call upon the Legislature for its passage and enactment into a law.

NO. SEVEN.

*Resolved*, That we disapprove of the site selected by the commission for the location and erection of the Feeble Mind School, and we do further call upon the commission to reconsider their action and select a site that will be more central and easier of access to the western counties of the State.

NO. EIGHT.

*Resolved*, That this Association petition the Legislature, asking that the Industrial Schools for Soldiers' Orphans be opened for the reception of dependent children who are not soldiers' orphans.

NO. NINE.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of the Convention is due and hereby tendered to our President, L. C. Colborn, for the courteous manner in which he has presided and dispatched the business of our meetings.

NO. TEN.

*Resolved*, That the thanks of this Association be and they are hereby extended to Hon. A. S. Stayer, of Blair county, Hon. Wm. T. Marshall, of Allegheny county, and Hon. J. S. Fruit, of Mercer county, for their support of the Act of Assembly providing for the erection of the Western Pennsylvania Institute for the Feeble Minded.

## NO. ELEVEN.

*Resolved*, That we return our hearty thanks to his Honor, the Mayor of Williamsport for his cordial welcome, to the County Commissioners, of Lycoming county, for the use of the Court House ; to the Overseers of the Poor, for many courtesies extended ; to the newspapers, for full and careful reports of our proceedings, and to the people of Williamsport, for the generous spirit in which we have been received and which has made our stay among them a pleasure.

After the resolutions referred to were read the Convention adjourned until 7 o'clock.

## EVENING SESSION.

The Convention was called to order at seven o'clock by President Colborn.

Rev. G. L. Burson, pastor of the M. E. Church of Williamsport, offered prayer.

Miss Derr sang a very pretty song, "When the Heart is Young," by Dudley Buck, and responded to a hearty encore.

The Convention was further entertained by singing by the Prohibition Quartette, of Williamsport, "Roll On the Temperance Ball," and "None of Your Business," after which, Dr. James W. Walk, of Philadelphia, delivered the following address on the "Past, Present and Future of Our Charitable Institutions":

*Mr. President, Ladies and Gentlemen:* This Association has treated me with great kindness. My name was placed on your program last year, but on account of my absence on the other side of the ocean I was unable to discharge the duty which I had accepted.

The Committee of Arrangements for the present year again assigned to me one of the addresses. In so doing they have laid upon me an obligation which I feel to be imperative. Had I not so regarded it I should not have been with you to-night; because the unusual distress prevailing among the unemployed working people in my city has imposed very heavy duties upon those who have to do with the care of the poor, and for nothing less than an engagement that I feel to be imperative would I have left Philadelphia now. But I am glad to be here, because this Association and its work has a large place in my heart. I feel grateful for what I have gained from the meetings I have attended, and I am hopeful of yet greater gain in the future.

I well remember the first Convention of this Association that it was my privilege to attend. In 1882 this body held its meeting in the delightful old town of Somerset, a town that has given us our very efficient President for last year and this. I had as my colleague at that time Mr. J. R. Sypher, an attorney of large ability. There were also with us on that occasion, Mr. Edward

Hoffman and Mr. Lucien Moss, the first delegates from the Blockley district of Philadelphia who had ever put in an appearance at one of these Conventions.

Although the Association of the Directors of the Poor had been in existence for eight years, the Somerset meeting was the first meeting at which the largest poor district of Philadelphia was represented. The smaller districts in the northern part of the county had sent delegates, but the great city district, which embraces nine-tenths of the population and nineteen-twentieths of the paupers, had never been represented. It was a disgraceful fact, and an indication of the indifference that had prevailed among our poor authorities there for many years. They appeared to be sound asleep. They knew little of what was going on in the next adjoining county, and nothing of what was going on in other States, and cared less. I make this confession about my own city, and I can couple it with another statement—that this condition of things has passed away. The poor authorities of Philadelphia to-day, I am glad to say, are alive, and awake and progressive. As you know, the Guardians of the Poor—corresponding to the Directors in other counties—had at that time the care of the poor. In 1887 they were superseded by the Department of Charities and Correction; made up of five men having direction of the Almshouse, House of Correction, and every other institution of that description within the boundaries of Philadelphia, except three or four township poor districts in the northern part of the city.

The fact that our people are now awake and progressive in these matters is largely due to the influence of this Association. Mr. Hoffman and Mr. Moss, who attended the meeting at Somerset, learned a good many things. They realized that there was a very important part of the State of Pennsylvania west of the Schuylkill River. Some of the discussions at that meeting were very spirited and warm, and there was some keen criticism on the methods used in Philadelphia. I am glad there was. Our Guardians came home with new thoughts and new inspiration. The following year this Association met in Philadelphia. It visited our institutions, and brought there a large number of the most progressive Poor Directors from the State. It started an interest and sentiment there that has done us a world of good. For that work I heartily thank the Association.

Questions relating to the poor and to charity must be considered in connection with the locality, in connection with the environment that is present in our State.

Pennsylvania, the Keystone State, a great State, is in some respects unique. There is no other State in the Union whose pop-



ulation is so cosmopolitan. We have representatives of almost every European nationality, with a sprinkling from every part of the world.

Go with me to the spectators' gallery in the House of Representatives at Harrisburg some day, when an important debate is in progress, and you will have brought home to your consciousness in a very direct, and sometimes in a very amusing way, the fact that the people of Pennsylvania represent a great many nationalities. Perhaps the first speaker is a substantial, plain looking citizen from Delaware, or Chester, or Montgomery county, and he rises and says: "Mr. Speaker, if thee will give me thy attention for a few minutes I think I can convince thee that the amendment that was offered to the pending measure on last second day is not as desirable an amendment as the one to which I call thy attention now." You are at once aware that he is a member of the Society of Friends. He is a reputable, well-to-do citizen, and if you trace back his ancestry you will probably find that it starts with the days of William Penn and the good ship "Welcome." Perhaps he is immediately followed by a nervous member from Schuylkill or one of the adjoining mining counties, whose trilled r's and peculiar brogue at once stamp him as a son or a grandson of some inhabitant of the Emerald Isle—land of the Shamrock and Erin Go Bragh—and then comes a Welshman, and then from Tioga or Bradford or some other northern county a gentleman whose vowels are all very broad and his consonants very nasal, and you know he is a Yankee. And so the debate goes on, and many of the speakers will use a dialect of English which I am always pleased to hear; which always reminds me of large, roomy barns and fat cattle and fine horses and good, comfortable, homelike life; the life of the fireside and the family, which prevails through all our central counties where Pennsylvania German is the language of the household.

Now, I have mentioned but a part of the different nationalities that unite to make the population of this State, and not only are the sources of the people various, but their interests are wonderfully numerous and complex. I heard a gentleman once say, "that if the Legislature of the State of Delaware would legislate in the interests of peaches and gunpowder, they would have done their whole duty," but in Pennsylvania a hundred great interests are clamoring for legislation. Near the western extremity of the State are the great twin cities—cities known the world over for their manufactories of glass and iron, and for their wonderful growth and prosperity—Pittsburgh and Allegheny. At the southeast end we have Philadelphia, a city which by an honest count has more than a million people; which we have been accus-

tomed to think the second city in the Union, and, craving Chicago's pardon, I think she is still—because I hear that in the census taken in Chicago, the enumerator did his work somewhat in this way: In one colored family the mother said she had a son whose name was George Washington Abraham Lincoln Ulysses Grant Snow; and he put in down in this way: "Mrs. Dinah Snow, three children, George Washington Snow, Abraham Lincoln Snow, Ulysses Grant Snow," and that made four. (Laughter.)

Yes, Philadelphia is a city of more than a million, and that city is clamoring for recognition and to have its interests cared for.

Then we have the anthracite coal field, and the bituminous coal field, and the almost unequalled production of iron; and our oil fields, which have given illumination to every part of this world. Then there is the coke industry, and the immense interests of railroads, and the stock raising and the dairy industries. We talk about the cattle ranges and ranches of Dakota; in Pennsylvania there are far more cattle than in both the Dakotas, with Montana thrown in.

Besides there are the lumbering interests, which built up this prosperous section of the State, and the great agricultural interests of Pennsylvania. We have the county of Lancaster, which is the greatest agricultural county in the Union. Oh, Pennsylvania is a great State and a good place to live in. We should be thankful we are Pennsylvanians.

Hail Pennsylvania! dear mother Commonwealth, our native State, full richly thou hast provided for thy children from the products of thy fruitful fields and the untold wealth of thy mines; right proud are we to be thy sons and thy daughters; but great as are the material blessings bestowed upon thy children, greater far is the heritage of thy grand history, the story of the brave men who have given fortune and life in thy defense; far away in our early time the soil was reddened by the blood-stained footprints of the famishing patriots who gathered around Washington at Valley Forge; thy sod was drenched with gore on the three dreadful days at Gettysburg when the sons of Pennsylvania poured out their blood like water at Little Round Top, at the Bloody Angle, in the Valley of Death!

Hail Pennsylvania! thou hast had a baptism of heroic blood. Thou wast forever consecrated to liberty in that supreme moment when Pennsylvania soldiers hurled back Pickett's charge and rang the death-knell of slavery and rebellion. Long may thy children lead in the vanguard of progress, ever onward, ever upward to a truer and nobler civilization—prosperity, equality, fraternity—the brotherhood of man. (Applause.)

The charities of Pennsylvania are the growth of its soil and

the expression of the sentiment of its people. As the State has great and numerous interests, so its charities have grown to be great and numerous, and there is among them the same complexity—I had almost said the same confusion—that prevails among the commercial and manufacturing interests of this Commonwealth.

It is no easy matter to legislate or administer wisely for the benevolent enterprises of a State like this. If you will look over the report of the Board of Public Charities you will see that the charitable institutions of the State are there divided into three classes; class one embracing those which are owned and controlled by the Commonwealth; class two embracing those that are assisted by the State's money and which, though owned by private corporations, are doing a sort of State work, partly under the supervision of the Commonwealth and partly under the direction of private corporations; and class three, the great number of private charities organized by voluntary associations of citizens, some of them endowed and some of them unendowed, but many receiving occasional gifts from the public treasury.

This condition of things is almost peculiar to Pennsylvania; there is scarcely another State that has institutions of the second class which were founded by private corporations but which to-day are acting practically as institutions of the Commonwealth. The hospital at Dixmont was originally an insane department associated with the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, owned by a private corporation. It is now, in a sense, a State institution. The House of Refuge at Glen Mills, Delaware County, has its property vested in a corporation, not owned by the State, but is almost entirely supported from the public treasury and is doing State work. The Institution for the Instruction of the Blind in Philadelphia is another of the same class, and the Institution at Chestnut Hill for the Instruction of Deaf-mutes is also in that category. I have often been asked by gentlemen from other States how it comes that Pennsylvania entrusts the education of her blind, and deaf-mutes and the reform of wayward children to institutions which are not strictly State institutions; they say it is confusing and perplexing. Indeed the same inquiry has often come from residents of our own State.

In the west there is nothing of this kind. Institutions of charity there belong either to the State or to private corporations, and the line of demarkation is clear and distinct between the two classes. To understand why Pennsylvania has this complex system we must understand how these institutions originated.

Fifty years ago few American States concerned themselves with charity. They neither made appropriations to charitable institutions nor did they supervise their operation in any way. The



counties had their almshouses and jails, and the State its penitentiaries. That was all. Pennsylvania had a peculiar population in part of its domain. Philadelphia and the surrounding counties were originally settled by the Society of Friends. They were people who believed in faith and hope and charity, but they spelled charity with a very large C. They emphasized the idea of benevolence to their fellow-men, and, very early after the settlement of the Quakers in this land, they began to found charitable institutions, supported by the free gifts of the benevolent. They founded the Pennsylvania Hospital in 1751, the oldest, and to-day one of the grandest of our charities. It has never drawn a dollar from the State treasury. The treasurership of this hospital was in one family for one hundred years; four members of that family occupying successively the position of treasurer, and there was never a defalcation or embezzlement of its funds during that century, nor even the suspicion of such a thing. I am not much of an aristocrat. I do not care much who my great-grandfather was, but I am proud of a Philadelphia family like that. The Pennsylvania Hospital was followed after some years by the founding of the House of Refuge for the reform of juvenile delinquents; then came the institution for the Instruction of the Blind, and the School for the Instruction of Deaf Mutes, and the Training School for Feeble-Minded Children, now at Elwyn. They all arose from the same sentiment and the same influences, and that is the reason that we have to-day the peculiar condition referred to, because these institutions were organized long before the legislature began to make appropriations for any such purposes. After a time, through the efforts of Dorothy Dix, the great philanthropist, the Western Hospital for the Insane was founded at Dixmont, a spot named after her. That institution also antedated the time when the legislature began giving money for charities. With the progress of charitable feeling and with the multiplication of the insane, and with the springing up of the sentiment that they were the wards of the State, the legislature began to appropriate money for their care, and the Harrisburg Lunatic Asylum was built, the first distinctly State charitable institution. Now we have insane hospitals at Warren, and Danville, and Norristown, and soon will have one at Wernersville. Then the State saw fit to adopt the Dixmont Hospital, and when it wanted a place to take care of delinquent boys and girls it adopted the House of Refuge. It also adopted the institutions for the blind and for deaf mutes, though in these cases the properties continued to be held by the original corporations. The difficulty in conducting these institutions comes largely from the confusion that arises from their being partially controlled by the State and partially by private corporations. I do not see how



we can remove that complexity. They are doing a good work. The Board of Public Charities says the work in institutions organized in this way is fully as good as in purely State institutions. There will never be many more of them. In these days when we build an institution we expect the State to give all the money, and those old institutions are the monuments of the time when the people, of their sincere benevolence, gave their own money to found them. I have taken up a good deal of time in discussing these matters, because it is a subject on which there is much misapprehension.

The multiplication of charities in Pennsylvania has gone on at a wonderful rate in the past twenty years. A few years ago comparatively few applications were made to the Legislature. After the appropriations were made to the hospitals for the insane and the schools for the blind and deaf mutes, a few thousand dollars were given away: \$5,000 to some Old Ladies' Home, and \$2,500 to some Home for Children; but all that has changed. At the last session of the Legislature the demands for private charities, over which the Commonwealth has no immediate control, aggregated millions, and each year the demand grows greater. Each year the efforts to get these appropriations become more strenuous, and some of the means resorted to are most discreditable. The feeling is that every county should have a hospital or asylum, State-supported. The real need, or lack of need, for those institutions is overlooked in the desire to benefit the section from which the members of the Legislature come, by founding institutions as a source of local pride and interest.

Now there is before us a great danger. This thing cannot continue indefinitely. One of the members of the Board of Charities, Mr. Boies, of Scranton, has recently published a book called "Prisoners and Paupers," in which he gives some surprising figures as to the cost of these classes in Pennsylvania. I am not referring to what you Directors of the Poor spend: I think you will find that fifty cents for every citizen of the Commonwealth will be about as much as is spent in one year in the ordinary course of your administration. In some counties it is sixty cents per capita; in some only forty; but the expense that is dangerously rising is the expense of direct appropriations from the State treasury for a great number of hospitals and institutions of every kind. Mr. Boies has given figures showing that a capitalization of the annual expenditure in Pennsylvania for penal, reformatory and charitable purposes reaches the enormous sum of \$237,799,-250.00, calculating the interest rate at four per cent.—that is, we expend an amount that would pay the interest on a State debt of nearly \$240,000,000. The burden is steadily growing, and will

soon become intolerable and some plan must be adopted for dealing with this question in the near future.

As we are situated to-day, even when an unnecessary appropriation is asked for, the people dislike to oppose it, because many of them are interested in other appropriations and are afraid to criticise the bad one for fear the good ones will fail. During the last few years, the appropriations to hospitals in Philadelphia have risen from a small amount to an enormous total, and I am free to say here, that they have gone quite far enough; that we have as large facilities there to-day as we need.

Now I have already almost exhausted my time and it is impossible to go into this matter in detail, but, at the request of the President, I will give an outline of what seems to be the best method for the State to adopt in the future. What we need is a system, something rational, not simply to adopt one expedient to-day and another one to-morrow. Let me give you an illustration. Some years ago a Governor of this Commonwealth took the ground that he would veto charitable appropriations made for maintenance; but would sign bills for new buildings, or paying off mortgage debts, and so he vetoed a great many appropriations for maintenance and signed a great many for the completion of buildings or for new structures. Then another Governor came in, and he declared he would do the opposite thing: he would veto appropriations for new buildings or for paying off mortgages; but he would sign appropriations made for maintenance. No system, no plan! Confusion twice confounded! A good institution that should have some State aid, is entirely at sea and cannot tell if it will get it or not. It is simply a matter of chance as to what the next Legislature and the next Governor will do.

I will try to indicate very briefly the direction in which we should go to find a better, a more rational system.

The *dependents* in this State are naturally divided into three great groups and each begins with D. The first are the *delinquents*, embracing the criminals, the vicious and the insubordinates, the people in the penitentiaries and houses of correction and reform schools; the second are the *destitutes*, those that are simply poor: they embrace the sick and the aged and the infant poor; and the third is the group of the *defectives*, and that group embraces the blind and deaf-mutes and feeble-minded and incurable epileptics and the inebriates.

Now the State must provide for the first group: unquestionably the State and the counties must care for their prisons and their jails, and it is proper that they should also provide for the reform schools. That is a well established doctrine in law, and I think no one objects to expenditure for this purpose.

When we come to the class of defectives it also seems clear that it is one for which the public money should provide. Blind children cannot attend the public schools ; but should have an education, and we should have special schools for them. Deaf-mutes cannot be educated in the common schools ; but they should be educated, and therefore we must have schools suitable for their training. The feeble-minded children must have some chance for education, and therefore we have the school at Elwyn and the new school in the western part of the State, soon to be built.

And then the largest class of all, as far as expenses is concerned, the insane : they must be cared for, not only for their own sake but for ours. They must be put into custody, as well as have medical care. Let the State and counties do this. The bulk of work is already in their hands.

When we come to the group of *destitutes*, the people whose only claim is that they are poor, or sick, or wounded—who are not dangerous to go abroad and do not need custodial care—who are not defective, but simply sick or wounded or old or infantile—the question arises whether or not the State should provide for them. In my judgment the State has gone much too far already in that direction. The counties are ready to provide for the pauper element. Why should that work be taken out of your hands by a lot of associations which claim to be charitable, but immediately go to the State treasury to get the money to support their enterprises ? If anyone from a charitable motive, desires to empty an almshouse into some private institution and maintain the paupers there, all right ; but I see no charity in an association emptying an almshouse, where people are maintained at a cheap rate, and then asking the Legislature to give it the money to maintain them at a dear rate.

That is what has been going on all over this Commonwealth, hospitals springing up everywhere, and their managers going to Harrisburg and making an appeal for them ; asking for an appropriation ; not, please notice, at the rate at which you maintain the poor, but at seven or eight or nine dollars a week. I think that movement has gone far enough in Pennsylvania. I think it is a pity that the State ever inaugurated the plan of founding strictly State-supported hospitals ; certainly there are enough of them now.

What the Commonwealth should do is to establish a well-defined policy ; to declare that the prisoners in our penitentiaries and reformatories shall be cared for by the State and counties ; to declare that the defective classes shall be cared for by the State ; and to declare that the rest of the charitable work shall be left to individual and corporate effort. I have spoken of the ex-



pense. It is a very serious matter. We have had years of great prosperity. To-day we are in a condition of great depression. This coming year it is going to be a very hard thing to pay our taxes, and it will not be possible to go on in the lavish way in which we have been appropriating money lately. We must retrench and curtail, and save something upon our expenses.

But beyond the question of expense and economy, there is yet a greater reason why we should leave much of the charity of our State to be done by the people and not by the public authorities by means of taxation. The effect of money given for charity—and I think the word charity, in its typical sense, cannot be applied to appropriations taken out of the public treasury from revenues exacted from unwilling taxpayers, but only to that charity which is the fruit of benevolence—the effect of money given for charity is very different from relief given by process of law. No one, in the latter case, is grateful for it. The recipient looks upon it as something to which he has a right, and sometimes as a part of the public plunder; but when the money is given from a motive of benevolence, when a good man shares with his unfortunate brother his own money and goods, it awakens in the heart of the recipient a feeling of gratitude, and his whole attitude toward the giver is different. We must practice *real* charity. We need it for its effect on the poor, and we need it none the less for its effect upon ourselves.

Faith, Hope and Charity : We can no more depute some one to do our charity for us, we can no more lay off the responsibility for the practice of that virtue upon a Board of Poor Directors, or Commission of Charities and Correction, than we can ask the township constable to exercise faith and hope for us. It is a duty we want to discharge for our own sakes as well as for the poor, and I believe a time will come when we will regard it as a privilege to take care of a large part of the dependent class without the aid of either State or county; then the man who is temporarily out of employment, and only needs help a few weeks, will be helped by his brother man without the intervention of the law; when the same kind of help will be extended to the widow in temporary distress until she can adapt herself to her new conditions and support herself; and when the orphan child, and the sick and the wounded will be helped judiciously and adequately from motives of benevolence. Let us cherish charity, the greatest of virtues. It is twice blessed: it awakens in the heart of the recipient the noble emotion of gratitude; it cultivates in the giver the first of all the graces. Let us cherish it. By so doing we will rise to a higher plane; we will make ourselves co-workers with all the best and noblest



of the men and women who, through all ages, have obeyed the Divine injunction, "Bear ye one another's burdens;" we will contribute our part, small though it be, to the ushering in of that good time when crime and vice and sin of every kind shall have disappeared, and when this world will be full of justice and truth and love and goodness. So doing, we will gain the approval of our own consciences and, perchance, when we have finished our work, and when the volume which is the record of all our efforts and labors is finally closed, perchance we will then win the best of all encomiums, "Come, beloved, enter into the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger and ye took me in: naked and ye clothed me: sick and in prison and ye visited me." "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." (Long continued applause.)

Mrs. Dr. Koenig here favored the Convention with a very pretty song, and was compelled to respond to an encore.

Dr. W. C. Youngman, of Williamsport, here read the following paper, but before doing so he said:

I was so taken up by the last address that I almost forgot that it was expected of me to make some remarks to-night. I am peculiarly unfortunate in the fact that the committee made the title of this paper, "Is pauperism a crime?" This was not the title or the subject chosen by me; however I propose to answer that by saying, emphatically, that pauperism is *not* a crime. It may sometimes be the result of crime, but in itself it certainly never could be called a crime, if we understand the meaning of that word.

I feel, judging from my experience of seven years as physician for the Poor Board of this city, that we can study best how to prevent pauperism. Then how to cure it. This assuredly needs no argument, for that is just what we are here for. Prophylaxis, or the prevention of disease, has been given, within the last quarter of a century, much more importance than formerly. We as physicians know now that it is much easier to prevent disease than it is to cure it. So it is with the disease called pauperism.

That it is a disease, on the body politic, I have only to define what disease is, "An opposite state to that of health." A change

either of position or structure of parts, or in one or more functions, or both." This is what occurs in pauperism. It is a change from the normal state of the general body of the people. That state is to care for itself, doing this by the work of hand or brain so that no assistance is needed to prevent starvation or provide shelter.

When I speak of pauperism I mean the chronic disease, not the acute. One may become a pauper and need assistance to maintain life by some sudden misfortune or general calamity; of this we do not deal. It is those whom we find *always* asking for help, for this or that reason, year in and year out. Begging always from Poor Boards: rarely in private, believing, if we can credit them with believing anything, that the world owes them a living and that the poor taxes are raised for the poor, and they are surely poor enough, therefore they are entitled to it and they are going to have it. You will usually find this condition hereditary. Every poor district can give examples of paupers passing from one generation to the other, as in our city we had one family of four generations semi-paupers. These people are paupers at all ages, when old of course, when young of course, when in middle life because their fathers were paupers, and they themselves were when young. With these people it doesn't matter what the original cause of pauperism was. The Poor Boards cannot deal with that. No matter whether caused by drink, loss of work, calamity, sickness, or what not, we are dealing with a chronic disease, which paralyzes the usefulness of the individual, all those dependent on him, and he transmits this disease to his children, and we are here to-day to devise ways and means to prevent this to the best of our ability. It is unnecessary to say that pauperism is rapidly growing in this land. All statistics show this. The city of Williamsport yearly expends eighteen thousand dollars on its poor. One-half at least goes to chronic paupers.

My experience in these families show me that those who have the distribution of the poor funds *must and should know the paupers intimately in order to understand them*. Therefore the Boards should have a long term of service, and should never be changed for slight reasons. The term in a city like ours should be for at least five years, instead of one as it is now.

They should be carefully chosen. Men of general knowledge of the world and ripe judgment. The paupers should be visited often, their peculiarities studied. If your overseers are good men trust them to handle the cases according to their merits. So when the Poor Boards decide what is to be done stand by them. Uphold them, even if it does not always accord with your judgment. They will not be far out of the way. This is one of the

hardest things Poor Boards have to contend against. Lack of proper moral support from the public. I have seen it happen that when a Poor Board decided on a certain line to pursue in a given case, people would abuse them shamefully. The newspapers would go for them, rip them open, telling all kinds of horrible tales, sometimes because the Boards were too severe, sometimes because too lenient, until the overseers could not say if they had a friend in the world. Now, what can a Board do harrassed in this way? Why, simply waste the people's money. A Poor Board to do good work must be supported by the public. Newspapers should not publish the trashy tales paupers tell them, for many people, with no proper knowledge of the facts, believe them, or reason from the half facts, which they usually contain, drawing nearly always, wrong conclusions, usually winding up with abuse of the overseers of the poor.

So, to cure the "disease pauperism," procure a good doctor, give him long enough time, uphold him in everything reasonable, support him with your confidence and money, whereupon pauperism will be reduced to its lowest ebb.

*Mr. McGonnigle:* The proceedings of this day have been to me unusually interesting, and I think I voice the sentiments of the most of us here when I say that this meeting at Williamsport has been altogether the most satisfactory and the most pleasant we have ever had. We have had many pleasant meetings and many meetings at which good addresses were delivered and good papers were read, but somehow there is a feeling all through this meeting that we are satisfied with. Our work has been well done, and the reception by the people of Williamsport has been unusually kind. Mr. Miller said that the work was new to them and he didn't know whether or not they could meet our expectations in the way of arrangements for us. Allow me to say, for the Association, that they have more than met our expectations, and I think it only proper to make this acknowledgement on behalf of the Association to the gentlemen representing the Overseers of the Poor of Williamsport, and their Reception Committee.

Now, with reference to other matters: Our work seems to be branching out in all directions. The address of Dr. Walk tonight is something we ought to take home with us, and it cannot help but do great good throughout this whole State. It gives new ideas and something to think about, and to plan out some

method whereby the charities of the State will be put on a satisfactory basis to the State itself, and to the dependent and defective and delinquent classes, and when I look back at the early days of this Association and think how small we were when we started, and how we have grown, and how we have commenced to educate the people, it surprises me. I can hardly realize it. There is a satisfaction about this meeting that I can hardly express. When I see the work come out so nicely it is a great satisfaction, and with the work here to-day and yesterday it seems to me we ought to gather into our membership every Overseer and Director of the Poor, and every one that belongs to any institution for the care of the defective and delinquent and dependent classes in the State, and make our institution so strong that when we make a recommendation to the Legislature they will say: "This comes from a body who know what they are doing and we must put it through." And when we go home let us make up our minds that next year we will come together with a determination to make ourselves so strong and our presence so felt that our proceedings will be sought for and be recognized as authority in this work, and everything pertaining to sociology. (Applause.)

*Mrs. Walton* (Chester): I observe that you have my name on the program for a short talk, and I am sure it will be short. I feel that this large and intelligent body of men and women have listened to the work of caring for the dependent children with a great deal of interest during our two days session. The subject in its different phases has been well ventilated and freely and kindly discussed, and I believe and feel that you will be grateful to me if I add no more words to what has already been said.

*Mr. Miller* (Williamsport): I am new in this work, and I can assure you that you have my kindest regards. I am glad you are among us, and I have been greatly interested, and have received a great deal of instruction that I hope will be useful in the future in the work I am engaged in with you. I am always willing to learn and I try to learn. I don't want to remain in the old ruts all the time, and if means to care for the poor are presented to me that I believe are better than those we have been



using, I am willing to adopt them. I am for progress in this work. I am glad you are among us, and glad of the little work we did to, as you say, make this meeting interesting. I was all the time afraid we could not. The little we did you are heartily welcome to. (Applause).

*President Colborn:* We will call upon one we all delight to hear and one that is like Davie Crockett's gun, "always loaded." That is our friend Charles Lawrence, of Philadelphia. (Applause.)

*Mr. Lawrence:* Mr. Chairman, in the language of the boys, "You do me proud." The time is getting late, and I have had a pretty good share of the time on this floor, but there was one thing I was pleased with; that in the remarks of our friend Mrs. Walton, instead of saying "ladies and gentlemen" she said "men and women." (Applause.)

It reminded me very much of an old gentleman who had been connected with a family, and he called around to see them one evening and found that they had moved. He met the little daughter on the street a few days after that and said, "have you moved?" and she said, "Yes, so many of the ladies in our court got drunk that we had to move away." (Laughter.)

So, since that time, the word "ladies" don't have as much significance as "women."

This Convention is about drawing to a close. The addresses have been very interesting to me, especially that of my colleague, Dr. Walk, of Philadelphia. There was a great deal of information contained in it—a great deal that is not readily accessible—and it requires a man to be on the ground and conversant with the institutions of which he speaks, and of which he gave so good a history. It explains some of the conditions in Pennsylvania. The homogeneousness of our population, also explained by Dr. Walk in a very intelligent manner, shows the difference between our great city and some other cities. I have visited a great number of public institutions in the different cities and States of our country, as well as those of Europe. It has been remarked here that the manner of dealing with the pauper class in certain sec-

tions of Europe was that they should not be provided with better fare than those of the lowest classes of dependents or self-supporting people. That I know is the fact in certain portions of Europe.

They don't think, while they recognize the fact that they cannot allow any one to suffer for the necessities of life, that they are called upon to give them luxuries. It is one of the questions in our State—one of those points that a man dislikes very much to come to, but must necessarily look in the face—whether the almshouses are not conducted on a plan much above the level of the average working man. If so then we are making it an inducement for people to become paupers.

To give you an instance: A sargeant of the French man-of-war, ———, came to our institution with a letter of introduction to me and I took pleasure in showing him through. As he walked through he was struck with the remarkable cleanliness and order maintained throughout the institution. The discipline. He says to me, "My heavens, how do you do to keep everything so clean?" I told him it was a natural characteristic of our population. (Laughter.) Of course I lied for the credit of our people. After getting into the insane department and seeing the beautiful dining room, he said: "How much you charge these peoples?" I said, "nothing." "Great heavens," said he, "you tells me these are paupers?" I said, "yes, sir," and he said: "If we had almshouses like this in France every man would be a pauper."

I took that as a great compliment to the institution, but the thought occurs, when we have them in such a condition that foreigners will speak as he did whether we haven't gone beyond what is absolutely necessary if we desire to reduce pauperism. (Applause.)

A lady read a paper at the last Convention, and previous to writing it she called at our institution and asked if I wouldn't give her some points to put in her address. I wrote her a letter about like this: "My dear madam—In compliance with your request I would state that if I was going to write an article on an ideal farm I would provide for a house for my people to live in; I would provide a barn for the horses, and a stable for the cows; I would provide stys for the pigs; I would provide coops

for the chickens ; a horse wouldn't thrive on swill, neither would a cow succeed well on the same food. A hog would rather eat out of a trough than at a table with knives and forks. Chickens would rather roost on a tree than sleep in a feather bed—but I forget, I was to have written you about an almshouse. I haven't the time, but if you can draw anything from the above that will assist you in your work, the object is accomplished." If a hog would sooner eat out of a trough than at a table with knives and forks, and if a horse could thrive better on corn than on swill it shows you there is a distinction between animals, and there is as much distinction between men and women as there is between animals. (Applause.) The plain facts must be met as they occur. We must have stables for horses and stables for cows and stys for pigs and coops for chickens. We cannot take people, as I have seen them in their own homes in Europe, and bring them here and have them affiliate with us until they are educated up to that point of living. Those that we have to throw into a bath tub, and put new clothes on them, I tell you they don't feel comfortable when they are clean and with clean clothes on. (Laughter.) I don't want to discourage you men and women in your good work. Look upon every man and every woman that needs assistance in the proper light.

*President Colborn :* The hour has arrived for the closing of this Convention, and I desire to return my thanks for the honor conferred upon me. If I have done anything I ought not to have done I crave your pardon. If I have done anything that has added to your pleasure, while presiding as your officer, I feel grateful for it. The proceedings of this Convention have been very interesting indeed to me. We close our proceedings here to go to the Hotel Updegraff, where a reception is tendered us by the local committee of Williamsport, and we trust you will all enjoy yourselves, because there is a feast of soul, as well as of other good things in store for all ; and I know that when it shall close we will feel like saying that :

“ The night shall be filled with music,  
And the cares that infest the day,  
Shall fold their tents like the Arabs  
And as silently steal away.”

Again I thank the members of this Association, and I desire now to introduce to you our President elect for the ensuing year, Mr. J. D. Carr, of Fayette.

*Mr. Carr:* (Applause.) Ladies and gentlemen, I have nothing to say to you at this time, further than to thank you for this mark of your respect. I hope to meet you all at York next year, and I shall then take pleasure in occupying more of your time. (Applause.)

The delegates all rose and sang "All hail the power of Jesus' name," and Rev. Burson, of Williamsport, pronounced the benediction, and the Convention was declared adjourned, *sine die*.

At the invitation of Mayor Elliot and the Reception Committee, the delegates met at the Updegraff Hotel at nine P. M., on the evening of the 18th, where they were received in the parlors by the Mayor and his wife, with other distinguished citizens of Williamsport, and where a pleasant hour was spent, made more enjoyable by the strains of orchestral music; after which they were conducted to the dining rooms, where a banquet was spread, after partaking of which the following toasts were responded to, President Colborn acting as toastmaster:

"The City of Williamsport," Mayor Elliott.

"The Commonwealth of Pennsylvania," Mr. W. F. Shepard.

"Our host and hostess," Mr. McGonnigle.

"The ladies," Mr. Robb, of Allegheny.

"The Committee on Arrangements," Dr. Youngman.

"Our Association," Dr. Walk.

After which Mayor Elliott called upon Mr. J. B. Duble, of Williamsport, who in a very pleasing manner responded further to the toast, "The City of Williamsport."

Thus ended, very pleasantly, a most profitable and enjoyable Convention.



## DISTRICT STATISTICS.

The following statistics from Lycoming County, are referred to in the address of Mr. Kaupp, of Williamsport. See page 51.

## 35 DISTRICTS REPORTED.

*Question 1.* How many Overseers of the Poor are there in your District? 35 answers received.

32 reported 2 .....	64
2 " 1 .....	2
1 " 3 .....	3
<u>35</u>	<u>69 Total.</u>

*Question 2.* What salary is paid them? 35 answers received,  
2 reported nothing paid.

24 paid by days actually spent, as follows:

2 @ \$1.00 per day.

19 @ 1.50 "

3 @ 2.00 "

3 paid as follows:

1 \$35.00 to each of two .....\$70 00

1 17.50 " " ..... 35 00

1 30.00 to one and \$20.00 to other..... 50 00

\$155 00

6 paid as follows:

1 \$ 12.00 per year.

2 25.00 "

1 30.00 "

1 50.00 "

1 900.00 " (Williamsport.)

\$1,017.00

(These reports were indefinite. May have been \$12.00 for one, or \$12.00 for both.)

*Question 3.* How many poor were supported in your District during 1892?

In whole or in part outside of the city of Williamsport.... 301  
Williamsport..... 374

---

675

10 districts reported more than 10 each.

2 districts reported none.

23 districts reported from 1 to 10 each.

---

35

*Question 4.* What was total cost of their support?

For 33 districts.....\$32,421 38  
Average per district..... 982 46  
Average per person aided..... 48 03

*Question 5.* Number of persons wholly supported in 35 districts?

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
	88	113	73	274
Average per district, $2\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{3}$	2	8	

Omitting the city of Williamsport. No. of persons wholly supported, 34 districts.

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
	63	75	62	200
Average,	2	2	2	6

*Question 6.* Number of persons partially supported in 35 districts?

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
	85	124	192	401
Average per district, $2\frac{1}{2}$	$3\frac{1}{2}$	$5\frac{1}{2}$	$11\frac{1}{2}$	

Omitting the City of Williamsport. No. of persons partially supported, 34 districts.

	Males.	Females.	Children.	Total.
	25	29	47	101
Average,	1	1	$1\frac{1}{2}$	3

*Question 7.* Total amount of Expenditures of District for year 1892?

8 districts reported same totals as in Question (4.)	
though in each case they certainly had other	
expenses. Amount reported by these 8.....	\$ 3,279 27
2 districts reported nothing, where they reported	
\$1,197.00 and \$500.97 respectively, in answer to	
Question (4.).....	1,697 97
2 districts which had no poor reported no expense.	
23 districts reported.....	30,689 40
	<hr/>
	\$35,666 64

Increase of \$3,245.26 over Question (4.) Outside of Williamsport, this increase was \$2,075.83.

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*Question 8.* By whom is Poor Tax levied?

- 34 reported by "Overseers of the Poor."  
 1 reported by "Poor Board."
- 

*Question 9.* By whom Poor Tax is collected? Answers are very meaningless.

- 4 failed to answer.  
 2 said County and Township Collector.  
 1 " State and County Collector.  
 1 " County Collector.  
 7 " merely Tax Collector.  
 3 " General Tax Collector.  
 5 " Regular Collector.  
 7 " Township Collector.  
 4 " Borough Collector.  
 1 " City Collector.—(Williamsport.)

*Question 10. (a) Rate of Millage.*

2 made no report.

5 reported no levy.

5 " 1 mill.

1 "  $1\frac{1}{4}$  "

5 " 2 "

1 "  $2\frac{1}{4}$  "

4 "  $2\frac{1}{2}$  "

7 " 3 "

1 " 4 "

1 "  $4\frac{1}{2}$  "

2 " 5 "

1 " 6 "

Average about  $2\frac{1}{3}$  mills.

*(b) Total amount raised.*

12 (including Williamsport,) made no report.

5 reported nothing raised by tax.

18 reported \$8,650.37.

---

*Question 11.*   
       " 12. } Dispute or litigation?  
       " 13. }

6 districts made no report.

22 districts reported no cases.

7 reported as follows :

(No. 3.)	Cummings twp.,	1 case with Pine twp.....	\$116 50
(No. 10.)	Watson	" 1 " Porter " .....	6 50
(No. 17.)	"	" 1 " Hepburn twp.....	6 50
(No. 31.)	Muncy Creek,	1. " Hughesville.....	5 00
(No. 33.)	Williamsport,	1 " Loyalsock.....	52 12
(No. 34.)	Clinton township,	1 " Brady twp., in 1891,	
		settled in 1892....	340 69
(No. 35.)	Trout Run,	4 " all vs. Bradford county.	20 00
		10 cases.....	\$547 31

(No. 6) says, "none yet, but getting ready."



*Question 14.* (a) Rate paid when supported entirely in private families?

- 11 districts made no report.
  - 3 reported ambiguously.
  - 1 reported "none in private families."
  - 20 reported as follows :
    - 10 reported \$2.00 or less per week.
    - 1 " \$2.50.
    - 1 " \$3.00.
    - 1 " from \$1.00 to \$2.75 per week.
    - 1 " from \$1.00 to \$5.00 per week.
    - 1 " \$5.00.
    - 1 " from \$2.50 to \$3.75 per week.
    - 1 " from \$2.50 to \$5.00 per week.
    - 1 " \$2.00 per week, in trade at store, and clothes.
    - 1 " \$13.00 per month ; \$3.00 per week.
    - 1 " \$33.00 per quarter ; \$2.50 per week.
- 
- 20

(b) If supported by occasional grants, how this relief is furnished?

- 4 reported "none furnished."
  - 14 answered "by supplies."
  - 3 answered "cash."
  - 14 made no report to this question.
- 

(c) What contract or agreement is made for such support?

- 20 districts made no report.
  - 15 districts reported as follows :
    - 6 make no contracts at all.
    - 3 make written contracts.
    - 3 make verbal contracts.
    - 1 makes contract with a merchant.
    - 1 issues orders on stores.
    - 1 made yearly contract.
- 

REMARKS :—The remarks on No. 4, (Loyalsock Township,) are most significant. "Give us a County Poorhouse, so says Loyalsock."

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Which were handed in to be printed in the Minutes :

## ADAMS COUNTY.

The Adams County Almshouse has not stood still in the past year, it has advanced, and the management has received the hearty endorsement of the Visiting Committee of the Board of Public Charities this year.

The total cost of the maintenance of the Almshouse and farm for the last fiscal year was \$10,707.78, a saving of over \$1,000 compared with the preceeding year.

The out-door relief distributed in the year was \$2,830, being \$215 less than in preceeding year. It was given to 197 individuals, 20 less than had been helped last year.

The number of inmates in the Almshouse at end of fiscal year was 60, a decrease of 3. 29 of the inmates were white male adults, 30 white female adults, and 1 colored female adult. In addition there were 14 inmates at the institution for part of the year, 7 dying, 3 being released, and 4 leaving without permission.

No children have been kept in the Institution as long as a month. Excellent homes were found in the county for over a half dozen children during the year.

1,810 tramps were lodged and given supper and breakfast. This was a decrease of 81.

The Grand Jury, at April Court visited the Almshouse for purpose of examining the hospital building and its crowded condition. They reported the hospital well kept, but every room occupied and the quarters of keeper and family being part of same building in which insane were kept, and recommended an additional building, with quarters for the keeper separated from those of insane inmates. In accordance with this recommendation and approval of the Court, the County Commissioners have now in course of erection, a brick building that will double the capacity of inmates that can be cared for, provisions being also made for the keeper. The building when finished will be equal, if not better than other Almshouse buildings.

The Directors after several months consideration of the matter lately determined to do away with the old system of lighting the building by lamps and candles, and have made arrangements to have all the buildings lighted with incandescent electric lights.

## ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOME.

The number of inmates in and admitted to the Home for the twelve months ending October 1st, 1893, was.....	748
Number remaining October 1st, 1893. ....	241
Average number for the 12 months.....	234
Cost of supporting inmates in Home.....	\$16,153 63
Paid for maintaining insane.....	15,531 72
"        "        children.....	321 50
"        "        feeble minded children .....	154 45
"        out-door relief.....	6,592 70
"        "        doctoring.....	3,031 00
"        "        burials.....	1,004 00
"        improvements, &c.....	7,311 90
Total.....	\$50,100 90
Average weekly cost per capita.....	\$ 1 33

The number of insane cared for in Dixmont Hospital, October 1st, 1893.....	184
Number of children in Media School.....	8
"        "        Children's Aid Society.....	5
"        "        Home for the Friendless.....	1

The farm consists of 205 acres of land. The crops this year were generally good. One gas well on the farm supplies all the light and heat required for the Home.

## ALLEGHENY CITY HOME.

Number of inmates October 1st, 1893,			
White males.....	144	White females.....	112
Colored " .....	5	Colored " .....	5
Total adults.....		266	
Children—White males. ....	4	White females.....	6
Colored " .....	1		
Total Children.....		11	

Aggregate population, 277

There is included in the above, confined in the Insane Department of this institution :

Males, 67 ; females, 55—Total, 122

The expenses for the fourteen months ending February 28th, 1893, was as follows :

Current expenses.....	\$34,054 08
New improvements.....	1,948 58
Extraordinary repairs.....	1,416 71
City office.....	5,078 23
Other institution.....	4,370 94
Out-door relief.....	8,240 45
Total.....	\$55,108 99
Average number of inmates.....	250 $\frac{18}{100}$
“ cost per capita for fourteen months.....	\$127 33
“ weekly cost per capita.....	2 08

### ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

#### DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES, PITTSBURGH.

Since the Department of Charities made its last report at the Annual Meeting of the Association of the Directors of the Poor, held at Erie, great changes have taken place at the Pittsburgh City Farm, viz :

The old City Farm, at Homestead having been disposed of to Carnegie, Phipps & Co., owing to it being inadequate to accommodate with comfort the number of inmates now furnished by the city, which is growing with astonishing rapidity, together with the late depression which has taken place in such a large manufacturing district as Pittsburgh comprises, however a reaction has taken place lately which I trust will be the means of our not being overcrowded in our present crippled condition.

A new Farm has been purchased at Marshalsea, on the Washington branch of the Panhandle Railroad, the contract price of the new building.....	\$475,250 00
Cost of land, 246 $\frac{1}{4}$ acres.....	61,687 50
	\$534,937 50

The new buildings are calculated to accommodate one (1,000) thousand inmates, the Hospitals and Insane Asylum are large and well ventilated which will give us an opportunity of taking much better care of patients than we had the means of doing in the building we now occupy at Homestead.

We have at present in the Home.....	167
In Male and Female Hospitals.....	87
In Insane Asylum, at City Farm.....	189
“ “ “ Dixmont..	82
In Concordia Home, Butler County.....	8
In St. Paul's Orphan Asylum.....	3
In Penn'a Institution for Feeble-minded Children.....	4
“ “ “ Instruction of the Blind....	1



Making a total of 541 chargeable to the City of Pittsburgh, which with an estimated population of 260,000, shows the percentage of pauperism of the entire population to be one-fifth of one per cent.

Increase of new applicants for out-door relief for the six months ending September 30th, 1893, over the corresponding period for the year 1892—256 $\frac{1}{4}$  per cent.

The Insane Asylum, at the Homestead City Farm, has been torn down to make room for a large press shop for the Carnegie firm, who at their own expense built a Male and Female Asylum, each 339 feet long in lieu of it, with a spacious dining room 50 by 30 feet attached to each, also a kitchen 30 by 30 feet, they have also excavated and built a sewer from the Asylum to the Monongahela river, the total cost of buildings and sewer being about Seventeen (\$17,000) thousand dollars.

By the terms of agreement at the time of sale, the Department of Charities were to vacate the premises on July 1st, 1893, but owing to certain objections being raised to contemplated purchase, were unable to do so, at which time the Carnegie firm had everything on hand and arrangements made to build their press shop, hence the cause of the Asylum being torn down, and the new temporary buildings erected by the Carnegie firm.

The new temporary Asylums were inspected by Doctors Morton and Wetherill, Chairman and Secretary of the State Board of Lunacy, both of whom were well pleased with the entire arrangement.

#### BERKS COUNTY.

The Berks County Almshouse was organized by a special law, approved March 29, 1824. Location, three miles from Reading, commanding a very fine scenery. The farm connected with the Institution, contains 514 acres, of which 375 are in a high state of cultivation. The buildings are heated with steam and lighted with gas. The Home was never in a better condition or presented a finer appearance. The average number of inmates maintained in the Home is 271; 96 are maintained in the Insane Asylum at Harrisburg; 16 children in Home for Friendless Children; and 10 children at Elwyn Home. Then, in addition to this, we have the vexed question of out-door relief. This causes a great deal of trouble on the part of the directors, and incurs a heavy expense on the county.

#### EXPENDITURES.

Total cost for maintaining the poor of the county ...	\$51,326 08
Out-door relief.....	\$9,377 00
Maintaining Insane.....	8,231 50
Maintaining Children.....	1,189 12 18,797 62
Aggregate cost of maintaining inmates at Home...	\$32,528 46
Current receipts from products of farm, etc., deducted,	5,396 67
Net cost for maintaining inmates of Home.....	\$27,131 79

The expenses of the institution have been reduced through the able financiering of the Board of Directors, and the excellent executive ability of our very efficient Steward.

### CAMBRIA COUNTY.

Cambria county has an area of 670 square miles, and a population of about 70,000 inhabitants, consisting of many different nationalities. It is a farming, mining and manufacturing district, underlaid with several veins of the best bituminous coal, and having the greatest iron works—in several departments—in the United States. We have one Almshouse, located one and a half miles east of Ebensburg, the county seat, on a farm containing 166 acres. The main building is a large brick, and hospital near by for the sick. It is under superintendence of Board of three Directors—the present Board, S. W. Miller, John F. Long and Raphael Hite, who hold regular monthly meeting at the office at the Almshouse, on Monday before the first Tuesday of each month.

They employ a Steward and Matron who manage the house, inmates, and the farm; have one hired man as farmer. The farm, under the present management, is becoming very productive, and supplies considerable towards the support of the paupers at the house, many of them helping in the labors connected with the work necessary about the place.

Our county being more a mining and manufacturing county, causing many poor people in times of distress, and causes additional expense to the county, and much labor for the Directors and Steward. The expense of maintaining the Almshouse, Farm and salaries of the Steward, Matron, Physician, Farmer, and Attorney are about \$7,637.18, at an average cost for each inmate for the year \$87.53 or \$1.68½ per week.

There are some 300 out-door paupers, men, women and children, to whom aid is given. We make them an allowance by the month, and amounts to about \$6,060.95 for last year, this includes funeral expense and doctor bills for out-side relief. This part is quite a delicate task. Some years ago there was (and now is) much on this line of the work, many unwarrantable cases being put on the list, no doubt from the application of neighbors so willing to recommend them for charity, and no doubt from the fact that it is easier to be generous than just with public money. We have at the Insane Asylum, at Dixmont . . patients at an expense of \$2,122.88; at Warren, 2 patients costing last year \$91.50, and one at Elwyn. We appoint one physician for the Almshouse, and a sufficient number of physicians for the out-door paupers, at salaries from \$75 to \$250 per annum.

The Board of Directors settle their expenses monthly by granting orders on the County Treasurer for the last month, and also compare business and advise with each other as to the best way to do with cases on hand. We find it works well.

We are happy to report the good success of the farm the last two years, through the good management of the Board and the excellent ability of our very efficient Steward, Thomas Hoover and his wife who is Matron. So that we feel gratified at our success.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

	DR.
January 24, 1893, to balance due at last settlement..\$	352 32
To requisition for 1892.....	15,000 00
To cash received from S. W. Miller, Poor House	
Director.....	98 18
To cash received from Thomas Hoover, Steward.....	397 05
Balance due Treasurer.....	64 96
	<u>\$15,912 51</u>

## By orders paid as follows :

	CR.
Steward's salary.....\$	500 04
Matron's salary.....	150 00
Farmer's salary.....	240 00
House servants.....	227 00
Labor.....	134 70
Groceries.....	758 12
Liquors.....	63 75
Merchandise and clothing.....	388 40
Meat.....	783 91
Lumber.....	212 76
Hardware and farm implements.....	727 36
Live stock.....	679 00
Wheat and flour.....	920 80
Livery hire.....	14 00
Constable fees.....	192 72
Justice fees.....	51 30
Attorney fees.....	190 00
Blacksmithing and repairs.....	202 36
Coffins, O. D. P.....	144 00
Coffins, at house.....	66 75
Relief, O. D. P.....	4,262 60
Cash expenses, O. D. P.....	836 98
Funeral expenses, O. D. P.....	307 87
Coal and lime.....	538 38

Physician at house.....	\$ 240 50
Physician, O. D. P.....	509 50
Insurance.....	24 78
Fertilizer.....	169 00
Printing.....	60 75
Harness.....	63 30
Warren Insane Asylum.....	91 50
Dixmont Insane Asylum.....	2,122 88
Fruit trees.....	20 00
Auditing report to public charity.....	17 00
	<u>\$15,912 51</u>
By balance due at settlement.....	\$ 64 96

Given under our hands at Poor and House of Employment of Cambria County, Pa., the 24th day of January, A. D., 1893.

GEO. A. KINKEAD,  
JOSEPH HIPPS,  
W. C. BERRY,  
Auditors.

#### INMATES.

Number in the house at last report.....	90
Admitted during the year.....	69
Born in the house during the year.....	5
	<u>164</u>
Died during the year.....	14
Discharged during the year.....	66
Remaining in house January 1, 1893.....	84
	<u>164</u>
Adult males in the house.....	59
Adult females in the house.....	23
Male children.....	2
	<u>84</u>
Average number per month.....	87 $\frac{1}{4}$



### CHESTER COUNTY.

We have a population of about 98,000. Chester County Home is located six miles west of West Chester, our county seat.

It is managed by a Board of three Directors, they meet first and 3rd Wednesday of each month. The farm contains 365 acres of rolling land. Have made some improvements last year, put in one 80-horse power boiler for running electric plant and have built new kitchen, bakery and store-room.

Average number of inmates for the year.....	206
We have at Norristown Asylum.....	89
Harrisburg Asylum.....	6
Feeble-minded School, at Elwyn.....	9

We also have 118 children that are cared for by the Aid Society that we feel is a grand good work.

The total expenses, \$33,062.34.

### CRAWFORD COUNTY.

Average number of inmates.....	92
Cost of maintaining each per week.....\$	1 80
Including salaries and hired help, making a total cost of.....	8,591 20
To this may be added the repairs and improvements that cost.....	510 41
	<hr/> \$9,101 61

This is in excess of the use of the farm of 215 acres of land. The out-door relief is not taken into account in this report.

### HUNTINGDON COUNTY.

The Poor District composes all of Huntingdon County, with a population of thirty-eight thousand, is governed by three Directors, Simeon Wright, President, Calvin ; H. C. Crownover, Saulsburg ; E. O. Heck, Orbisonia. Our home is situated in southeast part of the county, on the line of the East Broadtop Railroad, leading from the P. R. R., from Mt. Union to Robertsedale. P. O. address Shirleysburg.

We have in house at present 43 ; 20 males, 21 females, and 2 children. We have 16 children in Orphan's Home, at Huntingdon ; the maintenance of the children in our county costs one hundred dollars per month, let the number be few or many. We have 8 in Insane State Hospital, Harrisburg, and 2 feeble-minded, at Elwyn School. We give out-door relief in case of absolute necessity. Our total expenses for 1892, \$12,343.33. We have a farm of about 160 acres, raise all our wheat and have to sell potatoes, vegetables, and greater part of the pork and part of the beef. Our Home is governed by C. S. Heeter and wife, Steward and Matron ; Clerk, John Douglass ; House Physician, F. L. Schoom.

## LEBANON COUNTY.

Almshouse is located two miles east of the city of Lebanon. Our Poor District comprises the whole county of Lebanon, with a population of about 48,500. Whole number of inmates 96; males 65, females 31, average number 90; number of persons receiving out-door relief during the year 75. Our Almshouse expenses including out-door relief were \$13,274.53 last year.

The farm consists of 198 acres, all under cultivation, excepting four acres which is pasture land. We employ one farm hand as overseer, all the work on the farm is done by the inmates, excepting during hay-making and harvest when one hand additional is hired. We raise all the wheat that is consumed in the House, (also what is granted to out-door poor,) also all the potatoes and vegetables consumed in the House, we raise also all our pork and some beef. Out-door relief and aid is principally given to widows with children, and old people we pay from one to three, in a few cases five dollars a month.

We investigate all cases after the first application is granted. We have a good many widows with four to five children that we keep out of the poor house with out-door aid. We have at present 23 patients in the Insane Asylum, at Harrisburg, and 9 children in care of the Children's Aid Society.

## LANCASTER COUNTY.

Lancaster county, with a population of 150,000, has an Almshouse, a Hospital, and an Insane Asylum, on a farm consisting of 196 acres, situated one mile east of Lancaster city.

The institutions are governed by six directors of the poor.

There is a committee of two of the Board appointed to visit the institutions weekly and purchase the necessary provisions.

Hospital—Three male and one female nurses.

Insane Asylum—Four male and three female attendants.

One moral instructor, who holds services in the chapel every Sunday afternoon, and prayer meetings or entertainments every Thursday evening of each week.

All dead are given Christian burial.

The farm is worked by one paid hand, with the assistance of some of some of the inmates.

There is a general line of vegetables raised, such as is necessary for the institution.

Population October 1st, 1893: Almshouse—males, 140, females, 49. Hospital—males, 64, females, 34; children, 2 females. Insane Asylum—males, 43, females 41. Colored Department—males 9, females, 5. Total in all three buildings October 1st, 1893, males, 256, females, 129. Grand total, 385.

The Institution has averaged for the past year 450 inmates per day. We also maintain 52 persons at the Harrisburg State Asylum, 17 at the Elwyn Institution for Feeble Minded Children, and 23 small children from 2 to 4 years of age, out on boarding at private houses, under the supervision of the Ladies' Aid Society.

Amount paid out for out-door relief, \$5,200, for year ending October 1st, 1893.

Average cost weekly for maintenance of each inmate, \$1.85.

Total expenditure for the year was \$52,392.74.

We also have in connection with our institutions a tramp yard, a stone building, 60 x 30 feet, surrounded by a stone wall about 10 feet in feet in height. Meals are distributed here three times daily. We average about 60 meals a day.

### LEHIGH COUNTY.

Lehigh county Almshouse is situated four miles west of Allentown. Our county has a population of 85,000. We have a farm of 250 acres, all under cultivation. We employ one farm hand as overseer. All the work on the farm is done by the inmates. We raise all the wheat that is consumed in the house, and all the potatoes and vegetables. We raise our own pork, and some beef. We give out-door relief, principally to widows and children. The Board of Directors investigate all cases before relief is granted. We have at present 48 patients in Insane Asylum at Norristown, 8 children in feeble-minded school at Elwyn, 18 children in the care of Ladies' Aid Society.

Inmates in the House January 1st, 1892.....	234
Admitted during the year.....	246
Born during the year.....	3
Total.....	483
Discharged during the year.....	162
Absconded.....	6
Died.....	40
Removed.....	15
Indentured.....	4
Total.....	227
Remaining in the House January 1st, 1893.....	256
Adult males.....	174
Adult females.....	74
Male children under 16 years....	4
Female children under 16 years.....	4
Total.....	256

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Native born.....	139	
Foreign born.....	117	
		<hr/>
Total.....		256

Total expenditures for the year 1892.....	\$21,056	89
For Salaries.....	\$4,980	25
“ Home expenses.....	7,923	30
“ Farming expense.....	1,374	93
“ Publishing and Printing.....	465	50
“ Repairs.....	413	36
“ Maintaining children, as per Act of As- sembly.....	1,758	50
“ Out-door relief.....	4,141	05

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### MERCER COUNTY.

The population of Mercer County, according to the census of 1890, was 55,744, of which 1,050, or nearly 2 per cent. may be classed as pauper.

The amount for which poor orders were granted last year was \$26,012.16, or 46.6 cents per capita.

To raise this amount of money it required a levy of  $1\frac{1}{8}$  mills on the property assessable for county purposes.

This amount was expended as follows :

Ordinary running expenses of the House and Farm, \$6,741.86, which includes salaries of Steward, Matron, Physician, and all hired help, religious services, and all expenses of House and Farm, except \$1,197.91, which was paid for Smead Closet System and adapting the House to the same. In all \$7,939.77.

The aggregate value of the production of the Farm was \$3,974.26.

For Directors salaries \$2,567 was paid.

There was paid to the State Hospital for Insane, at Warren, Pa., \$2,640.25.

The Home for Feeble-minded Children, \$105.18.

The remaining \$12,759.96 was expended for assistance outside in the way of medical attendance, funeral expenses, and relief in general.

In our Almshouse our people of which we had 185 last year and an average of 90 daily, are well fed on plain wholesome food, kept clean, will clothed, and good comfortable beds furnished to sleep in. The sick are attended by the Physician and carefully nursed. Religious services are provided regularly for all who wish to attend. The able-bodied are expected to work, the measure of which is to do what they can.



## MIDDLE COAL FIELD POOR DISTRICT.

## RECEIPTS.

Balance from previous report.....	\$ 3,258 63
Receipts during 1892.....	43,738 04
	<hr/> 46,996 67

## DISBURSEMENTS.

Maintenance Paupers.....	\$ 11,087 85
"    Insane.....	7,124 40
Out-door relief.....	12,031 49
Conveying Paupers.....	697 20
Fuel and Light.....	1,391 63
Insurance.....	854 97
Improvements.....	803 32
Live Stock.....	390 00
Feeble-minded Children.....	100 00
Aid Societies.....	180 00
Salaries and Office expenses.....	2,002 07
Printing.....	430 00
Repairs buildings.....	677 81
Legal Fees.....	314 16
Discount.....	391 75
	<hr/> \$ 38,476 65
Balance, cash in banks.....	8,520 02
	<hr/> \$ 46,996 67

Insane at Danville, 71.

Average number inmates at Almshouse, 139.

Cost per month, \$7.16 ; per week, \$1.65.

Whole number persons receiving out-door relief, 239 adults and 241 children.

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

Montgomery County Almshouse, established by Act March, 1806. Land, 298 acres. Location two miles from Phoenixville, or one mile from Mingo station, on the Philadelphia & Reading Railroad.

The Board of Directors meet the last Thursday of each month. During the year ending we supported an average number of 168 inmates.

Paid for keep of children.....	\$ 731 69
"    Out-door Relief.....	5,459 23
"    "    Medical Attendance.....	1,645 50
"    "    Burials.....	390 00
"    Almshouse supplies.....	2,399 05
"    Salaries and Wages.....	5,389 74
	<hr/> Total amount of orders granted.....\$26,015 21
Cash received from Products of Farm.....	\$3,625 86
Weekly cost per capita.....	1 40

## NORTHAMPTON COUNTY.

Inmates in Home, 227 ; 154 white males, 69 white females, 1 colored male, 2 male and 1 female children under two years ; 214 are sane, 7 blind, 4 idiotic, 2 deaf and dumb ; 126 are natives, 101 foreigners.

Expenditures for the year were \$19,854.97, paid as follows : Salaries, \$3,577.22 ; House expenses, \$7,275.61 ; farming expenses, \$1,241.05 ; repair on buildings, \$1,174.93 ; maintenance of children, \$3,180.46 ; out-door relief, \$3,405.90. Expenses of our Insane is not included in above as our County Commissioners pay for their support.

## PHILADELPHIA COUNTY.

## OXFORD AND LOWER DUBLIN POOR DISTRICT.

## RECEIPTS BY TREASURER.

Board of Inmates.....	\$ 314 20
Delinquent Taxes.....	599 97
Sales by Steward's account.....	2,144 12
Taxes, Upper District.....	4,377 70
Taxes, Lower District.....	5,451 82
Discounts .....	2 89
	<hr/>
	\$12,890 70
Balance in Treasury, April 30th, 1892.....	1,481 78
	<hr/>
	\$14,372 48
Expenses.....	13,173 29
	<hr/>
Balance in Treasury, April 30th, 1893.....	\$ 1,199 19

## OUT-DOOR POOR.

Relief, Lower Dublin.....	\$ 281 51
“ Frankford.....	859 63
“ Delaware.....	361 34
“ Oxford .....	275 70
	<hr/>
	\$ 1,778 18
Commissions.....	649 76

## SALARIES.

Steward.....	\$ 600 00
Secretary.....	100 00
Treasurer.....	100 00
Solicitor.....	100 00
	<hr/>
	\$ 900 00

## AMOUNT PAID INSANE HOSPITAL, ETC.

Hospital, Norristown.....	\$1,756 45
Children's Aid and Association for Blind.....	212 60
Blockley Almshouse.....	251 39
	<hr/>
	\$ 2,220 44

## MISCELLANEOUS EXPENSES.

Magistrate and Notary Costs.....	\$	36	75
Books, making out Tax Books.....		161	50
Auditing Books and Accounts.....		35	00
	\$	233	25

## INMATES.

1892.	Men.	Women.	Children.	Total.
May.....	23	15	1	39
June.....	23	15	1	39
July.....	23	14	0	37
August.....	21	14	0	35
September.....	21	14	0	35
October.....	21	14	0	35
November.....	22	16	0	38
December.....	24	15	0	39
1893.				
January.....	24	15	0	39
February.....	28	15	0	43
March.....	27	17	0	44
April.....	24	17	0	41

## PHILADELPHIA ALMSHOUSE AND HOSPITAL.

(KNOWN AS BLOCKLEY ALMSHOUSE.)

The Institution is under the control of the Department of Charities and Correction of Philadelphia, consisting of a President and four Directors.

The department is divided into two bureaus, one of Charities and one of Correction.

Improvements have continued since last year. At the Almshouse the Isolating building then referred to has been completed and is in operation with satisfactory results. The stone wall thus far completed about 3,300 feet, extends around three sides of the ground, that in front of the main building being capped and topped with a neat iron fence. Walls and ceilings in Insane Department, Men's and Women's Outwards have been replastered; a new carriage house erected and a number of minor improvements completed, adding greatly to the sanitary condition and general appearance of the institution.

Net cost for the year ending September 30, 1893:

Maintenance.....	\$311,762	95
Repairs and improvements.....	26,693	90
	\$	338,456 85
Permanent improvements.....		18,351 94
Outside expenses.....		50,522 35
Total net cost.....	\$	407,331 14

Population :—Children's Asylum 14, Insane Department 1,051, Men's Out-wards 636, Women's Outwards 352, Hospital Department 1,044, making a total of 3,097.

Number of children maintained in various homes, September 30th, 1893, 196.

### SCHUYLKILL COUNTY.

Almshouse is situated twelve minutes walk from Schuylkill Haven, which is the P. O. address, and is reached by the Lehigh, Pennsylvania and Reading Railroads.

Four large buildings include Department for Elderly People of both sexes, a Hospital, an Infirmary, and a Department for the Insane, with a total capacity of 500. There are also a bakery, boiler house, steam laundry, shoe maker and butcher shop, the latter with refrigerator, wagon sheds, brick pig-sty 20 by 100 feet, bank barn 60 by 125 feet, a bank barn 40 feet square, a dairy with thirty-five cows, and a hennery.

Land under cultivation four hundred and twenty-eight acres, timber land seventeen acres, worked by employed farmer and teamster with assistance of inmates.

Actual Almshouse expenses for 1892, including value of farm products consumed, (estimated at wholesale rates,) \$56,207.99. Average daily number of inmates 413½. About 700 families were granted out-door relief to the amount of \$26,187.43, and in addition \$8,577.55 was expended for maintenance of residents in other districts for out-door Physicians, etc., \$9,059.75, for Board of Insane, at Danville and Harrisburg Asylums, \$353.07 for Children at the Pottsville Home, and a considerable sum to Elwyn Home, making the out-door expenses \$43,878.

Three boys and one girl, all more than two years of age, are, of necessity, kept at the Almshouse, the boys being crippled and the girl blind. Application has been made for her admission to an Asylum for the Blind. Two male adults and one female are colored. The Insane Department contained forty males and thirty-eight females, October 1st, 1893.

### WASHINGTON COUNTY HOME.

No. of Inmates, 150. Cost of maintenance, \$14,000.

#### CHILDREN'S HOME.

No. of Inmates, (Children,) 60. Cost of maintenance, \$6,000.

### WESTMORELAND COUNTY.

Situate three miles from Greensburg. No. of inmates in the Home, 175. Insane, 20. Cost of maintaining the Home, out-door paupers, etc., \$30,000.

Farm, 182 acres. Valuation of the farm, \$7,500. The Home, \$7,500.



## REPORTS OF CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETIES.

### ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

#### BETHESDA HOME.

As we report the work of our beloved Bethesda, for the year just closing, it is with deepest gratitude to Him, who has continually overshadowed us, and in contemplating the promise, "They that wait upon the Lord, shall renew their strength," we feel stronger, and with hearts full of thankfulness, we resume our work in His vineyard.

Our meetings of the Board of Management, from month to month, have been delightful occasions, resulting in good both to ourselves, and to those under the shelter of the Home.

As a Board, we have been united, standing shoulder to shoulder, heart to heart, and hand to hand, in making it a "Home," not an "Institution;" truly, co-laborers, in this, His work.

At one of our regular monthly meetings the question came up, "How old should an inmate be, when refused the shelter of the Home." Quite a discussion arose, and for a time it looked as if thirty-five years might be the limit, but when we remembered the lost and hopeless condition of Mrs. Lewis, as she came to us first, and the many times she insisted on leaving the Home, and again resuming her old life; of the times without number, kind, loving, but firm arms were thrown around her, and she was drawn under the shadow of the Almighty, and under the kindly and restraining influence of our Christian religion, she was held and eventually saved for the Master's Kingdom; and as we look back to the midnight hour of the voluntary coming of Marie; of her intense suffering in her heroic battle with the demon "Morphia;" of the great victory at last; of the months of faithful service in our Home; of our returning her to her people in Massachusetts; of a letter from her pastor, asking that she be recommended as a city missionary; and when other cases of equally good and substantial aid, to some entering over that age was cited, the matter of age was left open to the discretion of our Reception Committee. Our Matron gives us the following statistics:

There have been admitted.....	70 adults.
Returned to parents.....	12
Went out to service.....	55
Died, but saved.....	1
Formally dismissed.....	4
Married.....	3
Sent to Hospitals.....	7
"    Rosalia.....	2
Taken by Department of Charities.....	4
Temporary relief.....	15
Ran away, but went home to parents.....	2
Babes born in Home.....	20
Babes boarded but not born in Home.....	20
Babes died (only three of these born in Home).....	9

The total of the work done in Bethesda cannot be estimated here, only He, who doeth all things well, can render a just account. What we need most is more workers, more laborers.

"Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that He send forth more laborers into his vineyard."

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### BLAIR COUNTY.

Two years ago, in Reading, the Children's Aid Society of Blair county offered this body a report, in which it told you how it had established itself in a public office, and promised you in the future good work. We come to-day to give you the result of that promise, not to boast of our achievements, but to show how we have advanced, and to regret that so much has been beyond our reach, knowing well that a larger field lies open to us upon which we have not been able to enter. The fourth of November, 1891, marks an important period in the history of the Blair County Children's Aid Society, it being the time we completed our contract with the Poor Board of our county, and began work in earnest. Since that time our co-operation with the Directors of the Poor has been most satisfactory. We feel indeed we cannot say too much in this meeting of the very generous support we have received from these men. They have given us liberal financial aid and encouraged us by their appreciation of our efforts. They have stood by us in any little troubles we may have had and we would only hope for the good of the work we have so much at heart that every county in the State could secure for its Poor Boards men of like feeling.

Since the fourth of Nov., 1891, we have received from the Poor Board twenty-eight children; from other sources thirteen; have placed in free homes thirteen; returned to friends, fifteen; three have disappeared; one adopted; have in boarding homes eleven, and paying two dollars per week to a mother who has charge of the child herself. This done to assist this mother who is a widow with six children and no means of support. Total under care to date in free, boarding, homes and institutions, fifty-eight. The society has spent for boarding in this time nine hundred and seventy-two dollars and fifty-eight cents (\$972.58.) The children have been visited as often as possible with the funds at our command always once a year, many cases oftener. We have in all cases tried to consider the best interests of the child regardless of any other circumstances. We are sorry time will not permit us to speak of some of the special work done but feel sure from the figures given you are convinced that Blair county realizes her responsibility in the child saving work and appreciates the wisdom of giving her unfortunate and pauper classes an opportunity to rise from the depths of vice and immorality into which they have fallen.

## CHESTER COUNTY.

The active membership of the Chester County Children's Aid Society for the past year has been 136, contributing members 10. The Directors of the Poor have committed to our care thirteen additional wards—two white girls, three colored, four white boys, four colored. Notwithstanding some of these children were quite young in years, we were able to secure good, free homes for them, where the little mortals appear happy and entirely of the home circle. Within the year two small boys have died, two boys and one girl have been, by request, returned to their relatives, one girl has been placed in an institution requiring a more rigid discipline than our homes exercise, one colored girl and three boys nearing an age of usefulness to their worthy caretakers, quietly resolved to follow without restraint their own sweet will and abandoned without a parting word, their good homes and all their belongings.

At this date under care of the society, are 118 county children, of whom fifty-three are in free homes, thirty-two in temporary homes and thirty-three indentured.

In the Supplementary Department of this work five homeless children have been added to the number, three girls and two boys; their needs have been supplied and homes provided, where habits of industry are being inculcated; two have been placed in institutions for treatment, two ran off; total under care in this feature of the work, fifty-nine.

## FAYETTE COUNTY.

Society was organized in February, 1887, has about 60 members, meets monthly.

Since organization we have had in our care (children).....	100
Have now in our care.....	60
In free homes.....	47
“ boarding homes.....	7
“ Dr. Prugh's school at Butler.....	2
“ Elwyn.....	3
“ Morganza.....	1
Children visited at least once during year.....	42
Transferred to other counties.....	5
Received from “ “ .....	3
Died.....	2
Ran away.....	10
Returned to friends.....	23
Letters and postals written by Secretary since Feb. 15th.....	135
“ “ “ received “ “ “ .....	60

## MONTGOMERY COUNTY.

The Children's Aid Society of Montgomery County was organized in 1886. Each succeeding year has brought additional evidence of its utility, and has called for more earnest labor. The work has been greatly advanced by the uniform kindness of the Directors of the Poor.

We have a membership of 135 ladies, each of whom contribute one dollar annually. Meetings are held on the first Monday of each month. These meetings are attended regularly by the officers and Board of Managers, who are deeply interested in the work. Since our last annual report, permanent homes in the country have been secured for four boys, in each case reserving the privilege of visiting these homes, and in this way manifesting an interest in their general welfare.

Twenty-one applications have been made for assistance, and help rendered in each case.

We still have nine children under our care, for whom the county pays board; the society clothing them and seeing they are well cared for in private families, and sent daily to school.

Through the liberality of our citizens, we keep a large box well filled with clothing, which enables us to give timely assistance to other children in poor families.

We have several charitable organizations in Norristown, but none are doing more useful and effective work in a quiet unobtrusive way than the Children's Aid Society.

## TREASURER'S REPORT.

The Treasurer, Mrs. Dr. J. K. Weaver, reports as follows for the year ending January 31, 1893:

## DR.

To money received from Directors of Montgomery County Almshouse, for Board of Children.....	\$569 25
To money received for annual contributions.....	152 00
	<u>\$721 25</u>

## CR.

By cash paid for board of children.....	\$569 25
"    "    necessary expenses of Children's Aid Society for year ending January 31, 1893.....	13 30
"    "    for printing of forms, and for printing and distribution of annual reports.....	8 12
"    "    shoes for children.....	31 55
"    "    material for clothing and necessary wear for children .....	46 65
	<u>\$668 87</u>
By balance.....	\$ 52 38



## VENANGO COUNTY.

Report for year ending October 1893:

Children placed in homes in county.....	3
“ “ “ “ other counties.....	3
“ returned to friends.....	1
“ changed to new homes in county.....	3
“ returned to Society.....	1
Letters and postals written.....	238
“ “ received.....	179
Visits to children.....	20

## WESTMORELAND COUNTY.

The Westmoreland Children's Aid Society was incorporated by Charter in May, 1886.

We have a Home, presided over by a matron and two assistants, where the children are received and cared for until family homes can be found.

During the year ending March 1st, 1893, sixty children were cared for, of these 19 remained in the Home, 17 returned to parents, 15 placed in families, 2 adopted, 4 indentured, 3 died. Expenses for 1892, \$1,696.21. Average expense per week, per child, \$1.67.

## WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA SOCIETY.

This society is now in the fifth year of its existence, and is composed of the following county societies: Allegheny, Armstrong, Blair, Beaver, Butler, Cameron, Clarion, Clearfield, Crawford, Elk, Erie, Fayette, Forest, Fulton, Green, Indiana, Jefferson, Lawrence, Mercer, Somerset, Venango, Warren and Washington, twenty-three counties, the remaining counties not being organized owing to the lack of funds during the past two years. All are doing well with Allegheny in the lead, that society having cared for the highest number of children.

Last year the work of providing for children released on parole from reformatories was undertaken, and also the work of taking in charge children who may be placed in such institutions unjustly by parents and guardians who are anxious to be relieved of their support, in most cases by stepfathers and stepmothers.

At its last session the Legislature granted this society an appropriation of twelve thousand dollars (\$12,000), two thousand (\$2,000) to be used only in payment of debts contracted by the necessary borrowing of money to carry on the work.

Reports received from auxiliaries at the annual meeting held June 8, 1893, show that 924 children had been received by the eighteen counties reporting, since organization; total then under care was 390, in free homes 314, institutions and hospitals 43, boarding homes 30, and 3 in care of one society were allowed to remain with their mother.

It is a matter for regret that reports from five counties cannot be given as they have not been received by the Secretary and such reports would help to make a better showing.

The following table is respectfully submitted :

Societies.	Total number received.	Now under care.
Allegheny county.....	449	101
Beaver       “ .....	18	14
Butler       “ .....	27	13
Cameron     “ .....	6	...
Clearfield   “ .....	28	12
Clarion      “ .....	24	18
Crawford    “ .....	37	11
Meadville   “ .....	14	14
Elk          “ .....	8	...
Fayette      “ .....	94	59
Greene       “ .....	26	20
Indiana      “ .....	44	38
Jefferson    “ .....	23	17
Mercer       “ .....	30	23
Somerset     “ .....	13	6
Warren       “ .....	12	9
Washington   “ .....	21	5
Venango      “ .....	50	30
	<u>924</u>	<u>390</u>

Children placed previous to June 8th, 1893 :

	Free Homes.	Institutions and Hospitals.	Boarding Homes.
Allegheny county,.....	79	8	14
Beaver       “ .....	5	4	5
Butler       “ .....	12	1	...
Cameron     “ .....	...	..	...
Clarion      “ .....	14	3	1
Clearfield   “ .....	5	6	1
Crawford    “ .....	7	4	...
Meadville   “ .....	16	..	...
Elk          “ .....	...	..	...
Fayette      “ .....	47	4	8
Greene       “ .....	18	2	...
Indiana      “ .....	33	1	with mother 3... 1
Jefferson    “ .....	16	1	...
Mercer       “ .....	23	..	...
Somerset     “ .....	6	..	...
Venango      “ .....	28	2	...
Warren       “ .....	4	5	...
Washington   “ .....	3	2	...
	<u>314</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>30</u>

## APPENDIX.

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### CONSTITUTION.

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ARTICLE 1. This organization shall be known as the "Association of the Directors of the Poor of the State of Pennsylvania."

ART. 2. The members of this organization shall consist of the Directors, Guardians and Overseers of the Poor of the several Poor Districts of the State, and all who have at any time served as such; the officers of all Almshouses in the State; the members and officers of the Board of Public Charities; Superintendents and Managers of the several Insane Hospitals and the Pennsylvania Training School for Feeble Minded Children; the officers or delegates of all Reformatory, Charitable and Benevolent Institutions or Associations.

ART. 3. The object of the Association shall be that of investigating and considering all questions concerning pauperism and dependency, to devise means for the prevention of the same, to suggest legislation, to establish a personal acquaintance between the Directors of the Poor of the several Districts, and so far as possible have a comparison of their different systems of management.

ART. 4. Its officers shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, two Secretaries, one Corresponding Secretary, and a Treasurer, who shall be elected annually, and hold their respective offices until their successors are elected and have signified their acceptance of the office.

ART. 5. Their several duties shall be such as usually pertain to those official positions, and they shall be governed by such parliamentary rules as are usually recognized.

ART. 6. The Association shall hold annual meetings at such time and place as may be agreed upon by the members at a regular meeting.

ART. 7. The President, the Vice-Presidents and Secretaries shall constitute a Permanent Executive Committee to arrange business and make all the arrangements necessary for each succeeding meeting.

ART. 8. The Treasurer shall pay out of the funds of the Association only on the order of the President, countersigned by one of the Secretaries.

ART. 9. The Treasurer shall submit his account at each meeting, which shall be audited by a committee appointed for the purpose.

ART. 10. The expenses necessary for the holding of each meeting shall be assessed on each Poor District represented, which shall be paid to the Treasurer.

ART. 11. Any person interested in the work of the Association will be admitted as an honorary member by a vote of the active majority present.

ART. 12. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting, by a majority vote of the members present.

ACTS OF ASSEMBLY REFERRED TO IN ADDRESS OF DR.  
WETHERILL. PAGE 25.

AN ACT

*To provide for the selection of a site and the erection of a State institution for the feeble minded to be called the Western Pennsylvania State Institution for the Feeble Minded and making an appropriation therefor.*

SECTION 1. That the Governor shall appoint five commissioners who shall serve without compensation to select a site and build an institution for the accommodation of the feeble minded children of Western Pennsylvania.

SEC. 2. Said commissioners shall select within four months of the date of their appointment a tract of land not less than five hundred nor more than one thousand acres in extent so located as to be most accessible by railroad facilities to the counties of Western Pennsylvania to wit.

SEC. 3. The tract of land so selected shall be good arable land well adapted to the preservation of the health and the occupation and maintenance of the inmates of said institution with an adequate supply of good water and natural facilities for drainage from the institution buildings and the said tract of land so selected and the cost thereof shall be approved in writing by the Governor and the State Board of Public Charities before the purchase money shall be paid and the deed for the same shall be taken in the name of the Commonwealth but nothing herein contained shall prevent said commissioners from receiving a deed to the Commonwealth in fee for any land donated for the purpose aforesaid.

SEC. 4. The plans for said institution shall be prepared by said commissioners and approved by the State Board of Public Charities. The buildings shall be of the best design for the construction of such institution and without expensive architectural adornments or unduly large or costly administrative accommodations and no change shall be made in said plans of construction without the consent of the State Board of Public Charities.

SEC. 5. The said commissioners shall with the approval of the Governor and State Board of Public Charities have power to select a superintendent of construction and fix the salary thereof and of such other persons as they may think necessary to employ in order to secure the proper economical construction of said buildings. *Provided* That the total cost of said buildings and grounds shall not exceed the sum of five hundred thousand dollars.

SEC. 6. To enable the commissioners to purchase the land and to erect said buildings the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby specifically appropriated to be drawn from the treasury as the same may be required on



warrants drawn by the Auditor General in the usual manner vouchers or statements to be furnished approved by the Secretary of the State Board of Public Charities before any warrant is issued.

SEC. 7. The buildings shall be in two groups one for the educational and industrial department and one for the custodial or asylum department with such other sub-divisions as will best classify and separate the many diverse forms of the infirmity to be treated and shall embrace one or more school houses a gymnasium and drill hall a work shop and an isolating hospital all on such scale as will create an institution to accommodate not less than eight hundred inmates or patients planned and located for easy and natural additions as population demands.

SEC. 8. Said commissioners shall proceed to erect said buildings and complete the same within three years from the passage of this act and shall make report to the State Board of Public Charities of the amount of money expended by them and of the progress made in the erection of the buildings semi-annually at least and oftener if so required by the Board.

SEC. 9. The said commissioners upon the completion of the said institution shall surrender their trust to a board of trustees to consist of nine members who shall serve without compensation and be appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Senate Said trustees shall be a body politic or corporate of the name and style of the State Institution for Feeble Minded of Western Pennsylvania They shall manage and direct the concerns of the institution and make all necessary by-laws and regulations not inconsistent with the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth Of the trustees first appointed three shall serve for one year three for two years and three for three years and at the expiration of the respective periods the vacancies shall be filled by the Governor by appointment for three years as hereinbefore provided and should any vacancy occur by death or resignation or otherwise of any trustee such vacancy shall be filled by appointment as aforesaid for the unexpired term of such manager.

SEC. 10. That this institution shall be entirely and specifically devoted to the reception detention care and training of idiotic and feeble minded children and shall be so planned in the beginning and construction as shall provide separate classification of the numerous groups embraced under the terms idiotic and imbecile or feeble-minded Cases afflicted with either epilepsy or paralysis shall have a due proportion of space and care in the custodial department. It is specifically determined that the processes of an agricultural training shall be primarily considered in the education department and that the employment of the inmates in the care and raising of stock and the cultivation of small fruits vegetables roots et cetera shall be made largely tributary to the maintenance of the institution

SEC. 11. There shall be received into the institution feeble-minded children under the age of twenty years whose admission may be applied for as follows

First By the father if father and mother are living together

Second If father and mother are not living together then by one having custody of the child.

Third By the guardian duly appointed.

Fourth By the superintendent of any county orphanage.

Fifth By the person having the management of any other institution or asylum where children are cared for.

Under items three four and five consent of parents if living is not required.

All inmates are subject to such rules and regulations as the board of trustees may adopt.

SEC. 12. The form of application for admission into the institution and the necessary checks to improper admissions shall be such as the board of trustees with the approval of the State Board of Charities may prescribe and each application shall be accompanied by answers under oath to such interrogatories as the trustees shall by rule require to be propounded.

SEC. 13. Any parent or guardian who may wish to enter a child into said institution for treatment culture or improvement and pay all expenses of such care may do so under terms rules and regulations prescribed by the superintendent and approved by the trustees.

SEC. 14. Said board shall receive as inmates of said institution feeble-minded children residents of this State under the age of twenty years who shall be incapable of receiving instruction in the common schools of this State Said board shall prescribe and cause to be printed instructions and forms of application for the admission of such and shall include therein interrogatories to which they shall require answers under oath showing such facts as they may be needed for the information of such trustees Such printed instructions and forms shall be furnished to all applicants for the admission of any person or patient in whole or in part as a State beneficiary and shall be endorsed by the board of commissioners or directors of the poor of the county in which he or she resides at the time of the making of the application.

SEC. 15. Adults who may be determined to be feeble-minded and who are of such inoffensive habits as to make them proper subjects for classification and discipline in an institution for the feeble-minded can be admitted on pursuing the same course of legal commitment as govern admission to the State Hospital for the Insane.

SEC. 16. The board of commissioners or directors of the poor of a county in approving an application for the admission of a person to said institution shall state whether or not such child has an estate of sufficient value or a parent or parents of sufficient financial ability to defray the expense in whole or in part of supporting such child in said institution and if there be such means of support in part only then the amount per month which the parents or parent or the legal guardian of such child may be able to pay and the person or persons who make the application for such admission shall therein make statement under

oath as to such means of support Said board of trustees in accepting an application for the admission of any person shall fix the amount if any which shall be paid for such support according to the ability of the parents or parent of the person or according to the value of such person's estate if any and shall require payment for such support so far as there may be ability to pay as a condition to the admission or retention of said person Said amount may at any time be changed by said trustees according to their information concerning such means of support Where the indigence of the child or its family be such as to require its admission upon the full beneficiary fund of the State the ascertainment of the facts shall be as hereinbefore stated and the support at the institution shall be provided for by annual appropriations at such per capita rates as shall be appropriated by the Legislature on the application of the trustees after submission and approval of the same by the State Board of Public Charities.

SEC. 17. Said board shall have authority to receive for the use of said institution such gifts legacies devises and conveyances of property real or personal that may be made given or granted to or for such institution or in its name or the name of said board.

SEC. 18. The said board of trustees shall appoint a skillful physician who shall be superintendent and shall be competent to oversee and direct the medical hygienic educational and industrial interests of the institution and shall have charge and supervision of the entire institution both professional and otherwise He shall name for appointment such and so many assistants attendants and employes as may be considered necessary by the said board of trustees and with the approval of the trustees shall appoint a steward who shall have charge under the direction of such superintendent of employment of the inmates of said institution and the purchase production and distribution of all supplies under such rules and regulations as may be established by such trustees.

The salaries of the superintendent matrons teachers assistants and attendants of the institution shall be fixed by the board of trustees.

SEC. 19. The said trustees shall make under oath by their president or treasurer a quarterly report to the Auditor General of the State and to the State Board of Public Charities containing an itemized statement of the receipts from all sources and the expenses of the institution during the previous quarter and unless such itemized report is made and approved by the State Board of Public Charities Auditor General and State Treasurer the State Treasurer is hereby directed not to pay any more money to said institution until such report is made as aforesaid.

SEC. 20. The Governor judges of the several courts of the Commonwealth members of the Legislature and the Board of Public Charities shall be ex-officio visitors of said institution.

APPROVED—The 3d day of June, A. D. 1893.



## AN ACT

*Providing for the erection of the Pennsylvania Soldiers Orphan's Industrial School the purchase of land and the erection and equipment of the building and buildings necessary therefor making appropriations for such purposes erection and equipment and the maintenance of children admitted therein placing the care of the same in the commission now known as the Soldiers' Orphan Schools of the State of Pennsylvania and regulating the admissions to the said Pennsylvania Soldiers Orphans' Industrial School and the Soldiers' Orphan Schools.*

SECTION 1. That there shall be erected at some point within the State easily accessible a building or buildings to be known as the Pennsylvania Soldiers Orphans, Industrial School.

SEC. 2. That the commission now in charge of Soldiers' Orphan Schools are empowered to purchase not more than one hundred acres of ground the title of which shall be vested in the Commonwealth and to erect buildings thereon equipping the same with shops tools et cetera for industrial training as well as for the educational course and for the maintenance of the soldiers' orphans first taking security for the fasthful performance of all contracted for the completion of the building and buildings in a substantial good and workmanlike manner.

SEC. 3. The said commission as now constituted shall continue until the third Wednesday in January one thousand eight hundred and ninety-seven at which time there shall be appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate two members thereof and by the speaker of the House three members thereof to serve for two years and the Commander of the Department of Pennsylvania Grand Army of the Republic shall then recommend to the Governor five honorably discharged soldiers for the appointment who if approved by the Governor shall be appointed to serve two for years The Governor shall be a member ex-officio of the said commission At the expiration of the said terms of the said appointees their successors shall be appointed in like manner and for like term Vacancies occurring in the membership of the said commissson shall be filled by the appointing powers as above set forth.

SEC. 4. The said commission shall elect from their number a president secretary financial secretary and treasurer and shall employ all necessary clerks teachers and employes necessary for the proper conduct and care of the schools.

SEC. 5. The said commission shall have full power to continue the soldiers' orphan schools as now constituted or if necessary change either any or all of them to other localities until such time or times as the Pennsylvania Soldiers' Orphans Industrial School shall be completed or sufficiently advanced to accommodate said orphans when the commission shall close all of the said soldiers' orphans schools.

SEC. 6. The said commission under such rules and forms of application as it may adopt shall be and is hereby authorized to admit to said



soldiers' orphan school or to the Pennsylvania Soldiers Orphans' Industrial Schools soldiers' orphans of parents residents of this State for a continuous period of not less than five years prior to their application who shall be under fourteen years of age to be educated and maintained therein until they shall severally become sixteen years of age unless sooner discharged for cause by order of the commission.

SEC. 7. Preference in admission shall be as follows

First Full orphans the children of honorably discharged soldiers sailors or marines who served in the war for the suppression of the rebellion and were members of Pennsylvania commands or having served in the commands of other States or of the United States were residents of Pennsylvania at the time of enlistment.

Second Children of such honorably discharged soldiers sailors or marines as above whose father may be deceased and mother living.

Third Children of such honorably discharged soldiers sailors or marines as above whose parents may either or both be permanently disabled.

SEC. 8. In order that the benefits of industrial training may be given to the children now in its soldiers' orphans' schools and who may arrive at an age to be discharged at or about the time of the opening of the said Soldiers Orphans' Industrial School the said commission is hereby empowered to extend the time of the discharge of such children who may be fifteen and sixteen years of age for the space of two years additional.

SEC. 9. The per capita rate of the appropriation for the education and maintenance of the children admitted to the Pennsylvania Soldiers Orphans' Industrial School shall not exceed the sum of two hundred dollars per annum.

SEC. 10. No compensation shall be allowed any member of the said commission except such reasonable expenses as they may incur in the performance of their duties and no member of said commission shall be directly or indirectly interested financially in any school under care of said commission or in the education and maintenance of said soldiers' orphans nor in furnishing supplies to or for the same nor in the purchase of lands erection of buildings or equipment of the same.

SEC. 11. The said commission shall on or before the third Wednesday in January of each year present to the Legislature under oath a detailed report of the financial transaction of the preceding year setting forth in detail the amount of all moneys or other property received on account of such Pennsylvania Soldiers' Orphans' Industrial School and an itemized statement of the disbursements thereof.

SEC. 12. That the year for all provisions under this act shall begin on the first day of June in each year and end on the thirty-first day of May of the year then next succeeding.

SEC. 13. To carry out the provisions of this act the following sums of money are hereby specially appropriated out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated which sums shall be paid to the

treasurer of the Commission of Soldiers' Orphan Schools who shall first be required to give a bond in the sum to be named by the said commission with security for the proper application of such moneys.

First. For the establishing building furnishing and fitting up of said Pennsylvania Soldiers' Orphan Industrial School as hereinbefore provided with the sum of one hundred and fifty thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary.

Second. For the education and maintainance of the children admitted to said Soldiers' Orphan Industrial School for the year ending May thirty-first one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four the sum of ten thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary.

Third. For the education and maintenance of children admitted to said Soldiers' Orphan Industrial School for the year ending May thirty-first one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five the sum of fifty thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary.

Fourth. For the expenses of the commission as herein before provided the sum of three thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary.

SEC. 14. All moneys to be paid on the warrant of the Auditor General drawn on the State Treasurer upon requisition approved and certified to by the said commission.

SEC 15. Any balance remaining unexpended for the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-four shall be available for the year one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five in addition to the sum of fifty thousand dollars herein appropriated for that year.

SEC. 16. That all acts or parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be and the same are hereby repealed.

APPROVED—The 27th day of May, A. D. 1893

## AN ACT

*To amend an act entitled "An act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a home for disabled and indigent soldiers and sailors of Pennsylvania" further regulating the admission of inmates to said home.*

SECTION 1. That section six of the act entitled "An act to provide for the establishment and maintenance of a home for disabled and indigent soldiers and sailors of Pennsylvania" which reads as follows "That the soldiers sailors or marines who shall be entitled to admission in this home shall be those only who at the time of their enlistment in the army or navy were citizens of Pennsylvania or served in some Pennsylvania organization where honorably discharged from the service of the United States who are in indigent circumstances and from any disabilities (not received in any illegal act) are unable to support themselves by manual labor and who cannot gain admission into the homes for soldiers and sailors provided by the Government of the United States" be and the same is hereby amended to read as follows "That

the soldiers sailors or marines who shall be entitled to admission in this home shall be those only who at the time of their enlistment in the army or navy were citizens of Pennsylvania or served in some Pennsylvania organization or those who for five years immediately preceding the date of their application for admission were citizens of Pennsylvania who were honorably discharged from the service of the United States who are in indigent circumstances and from any disabilities (not received in any illegal act) are unable to support themselves by manual labor and who are unable to gain admission into the homes for soldiers and sailors provided by the Government of the United States."

APPROVED—The 4th day of May, A. D. 1893.

#### AN ACT

*To provide for the better protection of female insane patients in transit.*

SECTION 1. That whenever any indigent female insane patient is to be removed from any county almshouse to a State hospital or asylum for the insane or from one State hospital or asylum for the insane to another State hospital or asylum or from the home of such indigent patient to an almshouse hospital or asylum or when returned from such institution to her home it shall be the duty of the court under whose order such patient is committed or of the commissioners of the county or the overseers of the poor of the district to which such patient is chargeable (if not committed by the court) to provide a female attendant for every female patient in transit at the expense of the proper county or poor district unless such patient is accompanied by a member of her family.

APPROVED—The 14th day of April, A. D. 1893.

#### AN ACT

*Providing for the relief of needy sick injured and in case of death burial of indigent persons whose legal place of settlement is unknown.*

SECTION 1. That in each and every county of this Commonwealth in which a poor or almshouse for the support care and shelter of the needy and indigent is not maintained by and at county expense it shall be the duty of the poor directors or overseers of the poor of the several poor districts in such counties to provide all needy sick and injured indigent person or persons in their said several districts with necessary support shelter medicine medical attendance nursing and in case of death burial whether said needy sick and injured indigent person or persons have a legal settlement in the poor district in which they thus require and receive assistance or not but all expenses thus incurred for the relief support nursing care or burial of such indigent person or persons whose legal settlement is unknown shall be borne by the county in which the poor district furnishing such relief is located

And in the event of any such poor district having assumed or paid the expenses thus incurred for the relief or burial of any indigent per-



son or persons whose legal settlement is unknown the county in which such poor district is located shall be liable to such poor district in an action of assumpsit in a civil court for the amount thus expended or incurred and the want of an order of relief or approval order shall not be a bar to recovery.

SEC. 2. All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith be and the same are hereby repealed

APPROVED—The 6th day of June, A. D. 1893.

#### AN ACT

##### *Limiting the liability of poor districts.*

SECTION 1. That hereafter no poor district in this Commonwealth shall be held or adjudged liable to any person for or on account of relief of any kind or nature whatsoever afforded by him to any poor sick or destitute person for more than ten days immediately preceding the time when an order for the relief of such poor person shall have been procured and delivered to the overseers of the poor of the district wherein such relief shall have been afforded.

APPROVED—The 23d day of May, A. D. 1893.

#### AN ACT

##### *Regulating the fee to be charged for filing petitions for the adoption of minors and entering order of court thereon.*

SECTION 1. That the fees to be received by the several prothonotaries of the courts of common pleas for filing petitions for the adoption of minors and entering the order of court thereon shall be twenty-five cents for each petition so filed and it shall be the duty of the prothonotary to furnish to the adopting parent a copy of the proceedings certified under the seal of the court for an additional fee of fifty cents for each copy so furnished.

APPROVED—The 26th day of May, A. D. 1893.

#### AN ACT

##### *Making an appropriation to pay the indebtedness of the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania.*

SECTION 1. That the sum of two thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary be and the same is hereby specifically appropriated to the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania for the purpose of paying an indebtedness incurred for the maintenance of said society and the prosecution of its work during the two fiscal years ending June first one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three.

The said appropriation to be paid on the warrant of the Auditor General on a settlement made by him and the State Treasurer but no warrant shall be drawn on settlement made until the directors or managers of said society shall have made under oath to the Auditor General a



report containing a specifically itemized statement of the indebtedness of said society and the same is approved by him and the State Treasurer nor until the Treasurer shall have sufficient money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated to pay the appropriation due said society and unexpended balance of sums appropriated for specific purposes shall not be used for other purposes whether specific or general.

APPROVED—The 16th day of June, A. D. 1893.

#### AN ACT

*Making an appropriation to the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania.*

SECTION 1. That the sum of fifteen thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary be and the same is hereby specifically appropriated to the Children's Aid Society of Pennsylvania for the purpose of maintenance and prosecution of its work for the two fiscal years beginning June first one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three.

The said appropriation to be paid on the warrant of the Auditor General on a settlement made by him and the State Treasurer but no warrant shall be drawn on settlement made until the directors or managers of said society shall have made under oath to the Auditor General a report containing a specifically itemized statement of the receipts from all sources and expenses of said society during the previous quarter with the cash balance on hand and the same is approved by him and the State Treasurer nor until the Treasurer shall have sufficient money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated to pay the quarterly installments due said society and unexpended balances of sums appropriated for specific purposes shall not be used for other purposes whether specific or general and shall revert to the State Treasury at the close of the two fiscal years.

APPROVED—The 16th day of June, A. D. 1893.

#### AN ACT

*Making an appropriation to the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania*

SECTION 1. That the sum of ten thousand dollars or so much thereof as may be necessary be and the same is hereby specifically appropriated to the Children's Aid Society of Western Pennsylvania for the purpose of maintenance and prosecution of its work for the two fiscal years beginning June first one thousand eight hundred and ninety-three.

The said appropriation to be paid on the warrant of the Auditor General on a settlement made by him and the State Treasurer but no warrant shall be drawn on settlement made until the directors or managers of said society shall have made under oath to the Auditor General a report containing a specifically itemized statement of the receipts from all sources and expenses of said society during the previous quarter with the cash balance on hand and the same is approved by him and

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the State Treasurer nor until the Treasurer shall have sufficient money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated to pay the quarterly installments due said society and unexpended balances of sums appropriated for specific purposes shall not be used for other purposes whether specific or general and shall revert to the State Treasury at the close of the two fiscal years.

APPROVED—The 2nd day of June, A. D. 1893.

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## ALMSHOUSE DIRECTORY.

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### ADAMS COUNTY.

*Directors*—John A. Oiler, Hampton ; Joseph Sheely, Redland ; John C. Group, Idaville.

*Officers*—John A. Oiler, President, Hampton ; Peter C. Stock, Clerk, Gettysburg ; Harry C. Picking, Treasurer, Gettysburg ; William Arch. McClean, Attorney, Gettysburg ; Elias Fissel, Steward, Gettysburg ; Walter H. O'Neal, Physician, Gettysburg.

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### ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

#### ALLEGHENY COUNTY HOME.

*Directors*—W. H. Guy, Coraopolis ; H. W. Ochse, Etna ; R. Smiley, McKeesport.

*Officers*—W. H. Guy, President, Coraopolis ; H. W. Ochse, Secretary, Etna ; W. J. Glenn, Superintendent ; L. V. Grove, Physician, Woodville.

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### ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

#### ALLEGHENY CITY POORHOUSE.

*Directors*—Barton Grubbs, Chief, City Hall, Allegheny ; James F. Bailey, Chief Clerk, City Hall, Allegheny ; Wm. Eichenlaub, Inspector, City Hall, Allegheny ; L. M. Morrison, Inspector, City Hall, Allegheny.

*Officers*—Wm. P. Hunker, Superintendent, Claremont, Hoboken P. O. ; George Kelly, Clerk, Claremont, Hoboken P. O. ; William N. Marshall, Physician, Claremont, Hoboken P. O. ; Rev. John Henderson, Chaplain, Claremont, Hoboken P. O.

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### ALLEGHENY COUNTY.

#### PITTSBURGH DEPARTMENT OF CHARITIES.

##### CITY OFFICE 177 FOURTH AVENUE.

*Directors*—George Booth, Director of Department ; R. E. Cluley, Chief Clerk ; George Hoffman, Examiner ; F. C. Pearson, Clerk ; Daniel Diehl, Messenger ; L. C. Manchester, 1st District Physician ; G. W. Hiatt, 2d District Physician ; R. M. Sands, 3d District Physician ; P. D. Perchment, 4th District Physician ; W. D. O'Brien, 5th District Physician ; J. W. Cristler, 6th District Physician ; J. P. Kerr, 7th District Physician ; J. B. Grimes, 8th District Physician ; T. M. Ryall, 9th District Physician.

##### CITY FARM.

*Officers*—George Linderman, Superintendent ; C. W. Wilkin, Resident Physician ; T. L. Disque, Assistant Physician ; John W. Hoagland, Clerk ; Frank Krehan, Hospital Steward ; James Kirk, Chaplain.

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ARMSTRONG COUNTY.

## BRADY'S BEND TOWNSHIP.

*Officers*—W. C. Storey and J. E. Seybert, Overseers of Poor, Brady's Bend ; W. C. Storey, Clerk, Brady's Bend ; Wm. F. Butler, Treasurer, Kaylor ; Orr Buffington, Attorney, Kittanning ; C. Zeitler and wife, Stewards, Brady's Bend ; W. D. James, M. D., Physician, Brady's Bend.

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ARMSTRONG COUNTY.

## KITTANNING BOROUGH.

*Directors*—F. M. King, Kittanning ; Jos. Curren, Kittanning.

*Officers*—Jas. Curren, President, Kittanning ; Geo. T. Crawford, Clerk, Kittanning ; F. M. King, Treasurer, Kittanning ; R. McCulough, Attorney, Kittanning ; G. L. Rudolph, Steward, Kittanning.

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ARMSTRONG COUNTY.

## MADISON TOWNSHIP.

G. A. Balsiger, Widnoon, and William Stowers, Tidal, Overseers of the Poor.

*Officers*—W. D. Patton, Attorney, Kittanning ; Grant Bruner, Steward Widnoon ; S. W. Keller, Physician, Widnoon.

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ARMSTRONG COUNTY.

## WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP.

*Directors*—C. Y. Wyant, Adrian ; J. E. Wolfe, Adrian.

*Officers*—C. Y. Wyant, Clerk, Adrian ; C. Y. Wyant, Treasurer, Adrian ; Valentine Bowser, Steward, Adrian ; Dr. Ralston, Physician, Cowansville.

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BEAVER COUNTY.

*Directors*—G. W. Cleis, Beaver Falls ; John C. Christy, Holt ; Stephen Minor, Beaver.

*Officers*—G. W. Cleis, President, Beaver Falls ; John C. Christy, Secretary, Holt ; J. Sharp Wilson, Treasurer, Beaver ; J. Sharp Wilson, Attorney, Beaver ; G. W. Engle, Steward, Bellowsville or Mahan ; Jas. Scroggs, Jr., Physician, Beaver.

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BEDFORD COUNTY.

*Directors*—George Kerr, Mann's Choice ; A. B. Biddle, Charlesville ; Thos. J. Croyle, Pavia ; Henry S. Baker, Director-elect, will succeed Mr. Kerr in January, P. O. Address, Baker Summit, Pa.

*Officers*—George Kerr, President, Mann's Choice ; Thos. Armstrong, Clerk, Bedford ; E. R. Horne, Treasurer, Bedford ; Thos. Armstrong, Attorney, Bedford ; B. F. Mauk, Steward, Bedford ; Dr. J. A. Clark, Physician, Bedford.



## BERKS COUNTY.

*Directors*—Tilghman De Long, Topton; Wm. H. Seitzinger, Wernersville; John A. Hiester, Reading.

*Officers*—Tilghman De Long, President, Topton; S. M. Deek, Clerk, Reading; Adam B. Rieser, Attorney, Reading; John W. Gilbert, Steward, Reading; Harry Rentschler, Resident Physician, Reading; A. A. Stamm, Consulting Physician, Mohnsville; Jas. Y. Sheaver, Consulting Physician, Sinking Spring.

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## BLAIR COUNTY.

*Directors*—A. J. McKee, Hollidaysburg; John Loudon, Altoona, Jas. M. Stiffler, Eldorado.

*Officers*—D. S. Brumbaugh, Attorney and Clerk, Roaring Spring; W. W. You, Treasurer, P. H. Bridenbaugh, Steward; H. H. Brotherline, M. D., Physician, Hollidaysburg.

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## BRADFORD COUNTY.

*Directors*—Shelden H. Lindley, Canton; Pembroke S. Squires, Ballibay; Henry W. McCraney, Towanda.

*Officers*—John H. Dean, Clerk, Towanda; Charles T. Hull, Treasurer, Athens; Angle & McPherson, Attorneys, Towanda; Ed. W. Putnam, Steward, Burlington; E. A. Eaveretts, Physician, Burlington.

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## BUCKS COUNTY.

*Directors*—John Johnson, Hulmeville; Reuben Steever, Bedminster; Preston Fell, Doylestown.

*Officers*—John Johnston, President, Hulmeville; Elwood Mathews, Clerk, New Britain; Rueben Steever, Treasurer, Bedminster; Hon. Geo. Ross, Attorney, Doylestown; John Price, Steward, Doylestown; Frank Swartzlander, Physician, Doylestown.

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## CAMBRIA COUNTY.

*Directors*—S. W. Miller, Johnstown; Raphael Hite, Carrolltown; John F. Long, Ebensburg.

*Officers*—Thos. Hoover, Clerk, Ebensburg; C. J. Mayer, Treasurer, Johnstown; Donald Dufton, Attorney, Ebensburg; Thomas Hoover, Steward, Ebensburg; F. C. Jones, Physician, Ebensburg.

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## CARBON COUNTY.

## MIDDLE COAL FIELD DISTRICT.

*Directors*—A. M. Neumuller, Lansford; Sam'l Harteman, Weatherly, A. S. Monroe, Hazleton.

*Officers*—A. M. Neumuller, President, Lansford; James McCready, Clerk, Lansford; Hazleton National Bank, Treasurer; Rapsier & Cassidy, Attorneys, Mauch Chunk; Geo. T. Wells, Steward, Rockport; P. H. Latham, Physician, Weatherly.

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CENTRE COUNTY.

James I. McClure and Robert Muller Overseers of the Poor.

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## CHESTER COUNTY.

*Directors*—John S. Hope, Coatesville ; J. Preston Thomas, Whitford ; Samuel Wichersham, Avondale.

*Officers*—John S. Hope, President, Coatesville ; J. Preston Thomas, Secretary, Whitford ; John J. Gheen, Attorney, West Chester ; C. B. Swisher, Steward, Embreeville ; W. R. Perdue, Physician, Unionville.

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## CLINTON COUNTY.

*Poor Committee*—E. T. Gallagher, Chairman, William Ely, Wilson Kistler, R. D. Peck, Daniel Crowley, P. McCaffrey, Overseer.

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## COLUMBIA COUNTY.

## MADISON TOWNSHIP POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Thomas Mordan, Jerseytown ; Cyrus Reichard, Buckhorn ; Jacob Girton, Jerseytown.

*Officers*—Cyrus Reichard, President, Buckhorn ; Thomas Mordan, Secretary and Treasurer, Jerseytown ; White & Yost, Attorneys, Bloomsburg ; D. W. Vandine, Steward, Buckhorn ; J. E. Shuman, Physician, Jerseytown.

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## COLUMBIA COUNTY.

## CONYNGHAM AND CENTRALIA DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Bernard J. Doyle, Centralia ; John W. Goldsworthy, Centralia ; George Shaum, Centralia.

*Officers*—B. J. Doyle, President, Centralia ; Joseph Padden, Secretary, Centralia ; Andrew J. Lenahan, Treasurer, Centralia ; Francis Brennan, Steward, Newlin ; J. M. Givinner, Physician, Centralia.

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## COLUMBIA COUNTY.

## BLOOMSBURG POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—J. M. Larish, Guava ; O. T. Wilson, Bloomburg ; A. C. Hidlay, Bloomsburg.

*Officers*—J. M. Larish, President, Guava ; C. A. Kleim, Secretary, Bloomsburg ; John K. Grotz, Treasurer, Bloomsburg ; Wm. H. Snyder, Attorney, Bloomsburg ; Thomas McBride, Steward, Bloomsburg ; Dr. T. C. Harter, Bloomsburg, and Dr. F. W. Redaker, Espy, Physicians.

## CRAWFORD COUNTY.

*Directors*—Levi Putnam, Harmonsburg ; O. P. Blakeslee, Spartansburg ; Edgar Partch, Penn Line

*Officers*—Levi Putnam, President, Harmonsburg ; N. C. McLaughlin, Jr., Meadville ; Pearson Church, Attorney, Meadville ; George W. Cutshall, Superintendent, Saegertown ; J. A. Logan, Physician, Woodcockboro.

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## CUMBERLAND COUNTY.

*Directors*—John H. Rhoads, Boiling Springs ; Henry Mentzer, Kersville ; Levi A. Railing, Newville.

*Officers*—John H. Rhoads, President, Boiling Springs ; W. A. Kramer, Secretary, Carlisle ; Theo. U. Smith, Treasurer, Carlisle ; W. A. Kramer, Attorney, Carlisle ; P. M. Boyer, Steward, Carlisle ; W. H. Longsdorf, Physician, Carlisle.

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## DAUPHIN COUNTY.

*Directors*—Henry Cordes, Millersburg ; John C. Lyme, 1310 Howard St., Harrisburg ; William Look, Linglestown.

*Officers*—Henry Cordes, President, Millersburg ; John C. Lyme, Resident Director, 1310 Howard St., Harrisburg ; G. A. L. Row, Clerk, 1469 Regina St., Harrisburg ; Edw. F. Hummel, Steward, Box 267, Harrisburg ; Harry McDanel, Physician, Highspire.

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## DELAWARE COUNTY.

*Directors*—Chas. M. Cheyney, Booths' Corner ; Jos. Leedom, Manoa, Calvert Carawell, Upland.

*Officers*—Wm. Eves, Steward, Lima ; S. Trimble, Physician, Lima ; Isaac Johnson, Attorney, Media ; Wm. Eves, Treasurer, Lima ; Chas. M. Cheyney, Secretary, Booths' Corner.

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## ERIE COUNTY.

*Directors*—William Hopkins, Miles Grove ; B. E. Riblet, Erie ; Jos. Blenner, Erie.

*Officers*—William Hopkins, President, Miles Grove ; F. E. Wade, Secretary, Erie ; J. I. Town, Treasurer, Erie ; E. P. Gould, Attorney, Erie ; M. H. Silverthorn, Steward, Erie ; Geo. A. Garries, Physician.

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## FAYETTE COUNTY.

*Directors*—William Bush, Dawson ; William Handlen, Mt. Brad-dock ; J. P. Mills, Waltersburg.

*Officers*—William Bush, President, Dawson ; John D. Carr, Clerk, Uniontown ; B. S. Miller, Treasurer, Uniontown ; Morrow & Core, Attorneys, Uniontown ; John D. Carr, Steward, Uniontown ; J. A. Bat-ton, Physician, Uniontown.

## FRANKLIN COUNTY.

*Directors*—Geo. W. Immel, Chambersburg ; Geo. B. Foltz, Waynesburg ; Wm. B. Shields, Edenville.

*Officers*—Jacob Potter, Steward, Chambersburg ; S. Shillito, Treasurer, Chambersburg ; C. A. Suesserott, Attorney and Clerk, Chambersburg.

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## GREENE COUNTY.

*Directors*—J. R. Bayard, Rice's Landing ; S. C. Adamson, Waynesburg ; George Ganear, Waynesburg.

*Officers*—George Ganear, President, Waynesburg ; S. C. Adamson, Clerk, Waynesburg ; J. R. Bayard, Treasurer, Rice's Landing ; J. A. J. Buchanan, Attorney, Waynesburg ; W. B. Cage, Waynesburg ; A. B. Patton, Waynesburg.

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## HUNTINGDON COUNTY.

*Directors*—Simeon Wright, Calvin ; E. O. Heck, Orbisonia ; H. C. Crownover, Saulsburg.

*Officers*—Simeon Wright, President, Calvin ; John Douglas, Clerk, Shirleysburg ; J. S. Nopheker, Treasurer, Huntingdon ; T. W. Myton, Attorney, Huntingdon ; C. S. Huter, Steward, Shirleysburg ; Dr. T. L. Schum, Shirleysburg.

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## LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

## BLAKELY POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Martin Cawley, Archibald ; John R. Jones, Olyphant ; James J. Lynch, Olyphant.

*Officers*—Martin Cawley, President, Archibald ; John R. Jones, Clerk ; Olyphant ; Thomas J. Lynch, Treasurer, Olyphant ; John R. Jones and Joseph O'Brien, Attorneys, Scranton ; F. E. Moore, Steward, Green Grove ; Dr. John J. Kelly, Physician, Archibald.

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## LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

## JENKINS TOWNSHIP, PITTSTON BOROUGH, AND PITTSTON TOWNSHIP POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Dr. G. B. Seamans, Avoca, Luzerne county ; Ira C. Atherton, Taylor ; Jas. Jones, Yatesville, Luzerne county ; Louis Seibel, Pittston, Luzerne county ; Paul Bohan, Pittston, Luzerne county.

*Officers*—Dr. G. B. Seamans, President, Avoca, Luzerne county ; Paul Bohan, Secretary, Pittston, Luzerne county ; Louis Seibel, Treasurer, Pittston, Luzerne county ; C. F. Bohan, Pittston, Luzerne county ; Jacob Place, Ranson ; Dr. G. Underwood, Physician, Pittston, Luzerne county ; Dr. J. S. Porteus, Physician, Taylor.



## LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

## NORTHERN LUZERNE.

*Directors*—Thomas Smith, Dalton; M. H. Coon, Clark's Green; S. J. Van Fleet, Wallsville; S. D. Miller, Edella; George Perry, Waverly; William Bell, Clifford, Susquehanna county; D. W. La Rue, 101 South Main ave., Scranton.

*Officers*—M. H. Coon, President, Clark's Green; J. C. Higgins, Clerk, Clark's Green; S. J. Van Fleet, Treasurer, Wallsville; B. F. Akerley, Attorney, Clark's Green; George Vosburgh, Steward, Clark's Summit; S. E. Lynch, Physician, Clark's Summit.

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## LACKAWANNA COUNTY.

## SCRANTON.

*Directors*—W. S. Langstaff, John Gibbons, P. J. Murphy, Daniel Williams, Mrs. Frances B. Swan, Thomas Shotton, Charles Tropp.

*Officers*—W. S. Langstaff, President, Diamond ave., Scranton; E. J. Lynett, Sec'y., 229 Washington Avenue, Scranton; T. H. Jones, Treasurer, Main Avenue, Scranton; John F. Scragg, Attorney, 306 Lackawanna Avenue, Scranton; Geo. W. Beemer, Sup't, Clark's Summit; Dr. B. F. Evans, Resident Physician, Clark's Summit; Dr. P. F. Gunster, Dr. W. A. Paine, Out Door Physicians, Scranton.

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## LANCASTER COUNTY.

*Directors*—H. W. Graybill, East Petersburg; J. S. Strine, Columbia; D. C. Kready, Millersville; R. W. Bard, Lincoln; Christian Herr, Jr., Lime Valley; B. F. Weaver, Salisbury.

*Officers*—H. W. Graybill, President, East Petersburg; William Good, Steward, Lancaster; Mrs. Wm. Good, Matron, Lancaster; Will C. Grube, Secretary, Lancaster; S. W. Miller, Physician, Lancaster.

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## LAWRENCE COUNTY.

## NEW CASTLE POOR DISTRICT.

*Director*—Elias Lang, New Castle.

*Officers*—W. T. Burns, City Solicitor, New Castle; Jos. Shawalter, Steward; Mrs. Jos. Shawalter, Matron; Paris Shaup, Physician, New Castle.

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## LEBANON COUNTY.

*Directors*—Thomas Heffelfinger, President, Fredericksburg; William Keller, Heilmandale; John Yingst, Prescott.

*Officers*—Dr. Joseph D. Zimmerman, Physician and Clerk, Lebanon; Isaac Beckley, Treasurer, Lebanon; E. W. Miller, Attorney, Lebanon; William Carothers, Steward, Box 49, Lebanon.

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LEHIGH COUNTY.

*Directors*—Reuben M. Roeder, Hosensack; William Deibert, Orefield; Samuel R. Engelman, Allentown.

*Officers*—Reuben M. Roeder, President, Hosensack; S. A. J. Kem, Clerk, Wescoesville; Charles O. Schantz, Treasurer, Allentown; Clinton Groman, Attorney, Allentown; Moses Kem, Steward, Wescoesville; A. N. Miller, M. D., Physician, East Texas; A. J. Erdman, Physician, Orefield.

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## LUZERNE COUNTY.

## CENTRAL POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—Abram Nesbitt, Kingston; O. B. Macknight, Plains; S. B. Vaughn, Dorranceton; S. W. Devenport, Plymouth; Mary Long, Wilkes Barre; Louis Tisch, Wilkes Barre; E. N. Alexander, Nanticoke; A. Y. Belles.

*Officers*—O. B. Macknight, President, Plains; Abram Nesbitt, Clerk and Treasurer, Kingston; D. L. O'Niel, Attorney, Wilkes Barre; M. K. Eichelberger, Steward, Nanticoke; Dr. E. C. Wagner, Physician, Wilkes Barre.

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## LYCOMING COUNTY.

## WILLIAMSPORT POOR DISTRICT.

*Directors*—J. C. Pierce, Williamsport; John Hartman, Williamsport; D. W. Miller, Williamsport.

*Officers*—J. C. Pierce, President, Williamsport; D. W. Miller, Secretary, Williamsport; V. W. Quigel, (City Treasurer,) Treasurer; O. G. Kaupp, Attorney; Elmer E. Ohl, Steward, Burlingame P. O.; C. W. Youngman, Physician.

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## MERCER COUNTY.

*Directors*—J. F. Hope, President; Albert Porter, Secretary; Benj. Mowery, Director.

*Officers*—John W. Byers, Steward; Anna B. Byers, Matron; R. M. Hope, M. D., Physician; J. D. Emery, Attorney.

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## MIFFLIN COUNTY.

*Directors*—D. S. Price, Yeagertown; C. G. Milliken, Reedsville; Alex. Cumming, Newton Hamilton, Pa.

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CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA,  
ORGANIZED 1885; INCORPORATED 1889.

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FULTON COUNTY COMMITTEE—Mrs. Hunter Patterson, Chairman, Webster's Mill.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CONCERNING SITE SELECTED FOR  
ERECTION OF WESTERN PENNSYLVANIA INSTITUTE  
FOR CARE OF FEEBLE-MINDED CHILDREN.

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*To the Association of Directors of the Poor :*

GENTLEMEN :

The undersigned Committee, appointed at the meeting of this Association, held at Williamsport, on October 17th, 1893, to present a protest to the Board of Public Charities against the selection of the site for the Western Pennsylvania Institute for Feeble-Minded Children, at Polk Station, Venango County, would respectfully report that we presented the protest (copy of which is attached), to the Board of Public Charities, at a meeting held October 26th, 1893. The Board of Public Charities, however, after hearing the same, approved the Report of the Commission, as endorsed by the Governor, by a unanimous vote.

In connection with the above there are some matters that we have thought best to present to you in this report, so that you may be fully advised concerning same.

The gentlemen selected by the Governor as Commissioners under the Act, we find were not in the least acquainted with the requirements of their task. They had not been interested in any way in the work previous to their appointment, and so far as we can learn, had no idea of the purposes of the institution to be established, and were not in any way familiar with the demands and necessities incident to such an institution, and all they have learned in this regard has been since their appointment.

Under these circumstances, it is not to be wondered at, therefore, that the Commission displayed what seems to us a laxity of action and an absence of any purpose in their work.

The Commission was appointed on or about June 4th, and they had four months to select and decide upon a site. Their inactivity

was signally remarkable. They, so far as we can learn, never advertised for sites, a proceeding which ordinary business methods would have suggested, and which certainly would have been in keeping with the method adopted by all Commissions appointed for similar purchases.

How many propositions for sites the Commission received, we do not know, but we have information that several sites offered were not considered, and were practically ignored.

To what extent the Commission visited the sites presented to them, we do not know, but we do know there was no particular effort made to examine the merits of any of them, except the one selected, and this one seems to have been practically agreed upon, without regard to the claims of any of the others, or to the convenience or accommodation of any portion of the district to be covered by the institution, except that immediately in the neighborhood of the one selected.

One of the Commission, we are informed, did not visit any of the sites offered, although he joined with the balance of the Commission in their report favoring the tract of land, consisting of about 800 acres and costing \$25,000, at Polk Station, on the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern R. R., nine miles from Franklin, Venango county.

As if the Commission suspected opposition, the selection of the site was not made public until the last day of the four months had expired. Then their report was made up and handed to the Governor, and he, without apparently making any inquiry as to the advisability of the selection, immediately approved it, *before* it was submitted to the Board of Public Charities—which proceeding is directly contrary to any similar report that had to be approved by the Board of Public Charities. As an instance, the site for the Chronic Insane Hospital was not approved by the Governor until *after* it had been considered and approved by the Board of Public Charities.



When it is considered that this Commission and the members of the Board of Public Charities are all appointed by the Governor, it will be seen at once that when the report came to the Board of Public Charities with the Governor's approval, they were not free to consider it on its merits, and out of courtesy to the Governor, they could do nothing but approve it.

If the Board of Public Charities are not to be allowed to consider such an important matter as this on its merits, and are compelled to approve it, as above stated, we think that this condition of affairs should be changed at once.

What possible justification the Commission can offer for placing the institution in such an out-of-the-way place as selected, we can not understand. Every interest of the institution itself, and those with whom it will have to do business, demands that it be placed near the center of population.

It is said the Lake Shore R. R. Co. have agreed to transport persons and materials over all its lines in Pennsylvania at a reduction from the regular charges. We have not been able to find that any effort was made by the Commission to secure such concession from either the Pennsylvania R. R. or Baltimore & Ohio systems, and it is fair to presume that they would have made fully as reasonable a concession as that made by the Lake Shore, and possibly been even more liberal; and in this respect it looks as if the interest of the Lake Shore Road had received more consideration than any interest of the institution. To reach the site from Pittsburgh over the lines of the Lake Shore Road requires two changes of cars, one at New Castle and one at Stoneboro.

This certainly is not what would be called "good railroad facilities."

By reference to the time table taken from the Official Railway Guide for December, of the Lake Shore and the W. N. Y. & P. R. R., which passes the site selected, it will be seen that the railroad facilities are not such as to offer any great accommodation. It will be noticed that Polk station is not named on W. N. Y. & P. R. R. schedule.

However, the whole transaction of the selection of this site seems to us to be so fraught with mistakes, and to show such absolute incompetency on the part of the Commission that their whole work should be examined into by some authority who would not be placed in the position of the Board of Public Charities.

The appropriation of \$250,000, placed at the disposal of this Commission for the erection of the institution, is too large a sum to be expended by a Commission so utterly unfitted for the duties enjoined upon them and in a manner not in keeping with its purposes. We would recommend that at the next meeting of this Association, to be held in October, 1894, such further action be taken as will be thought best, looking to an inquiry into the whole matter, with a view of having such a site selected as will be adapted to the demands and purposes of the institution.

It has been called to our attention that while the Board of Public Charities has a membership of eleven, but two of their number are from Western Pennsylvania. The charitable interests of Western Pennsylvania, in our judgment, demand that it be given a much larger membership on the Board of Public Charities, and think some action should be taken to remedy this condition of affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

J. SHARP WILSON,

J. D. CARR,

ROBT. D. MCGONNIGLE,

*Committee.*

PITTSBURGH, PA., October 20th, 1893.

*To the Hon. M. H. Dickinson, President,*

*And Members of the Board of Public Charities :*

GENTLEMEN :

At the annual meeting of the Association of Directors of the Poor of this State, held at Williamsport, on the 17th and 18th of this month, the matter of the site selected by the Commission for the Erection of the Institute for the Feeble-Minded, in Western Pennsylvania, at Polk, Venango County, was presented, and after considerable discussion, a resolution was unanimously passed, appointing the undersigned a committee to wait upon you, and present for the Association, a protest against the site as selected, and it is in accordance with this resolution that this protest is now presented.

The meeting above referred to, was largely attended, not only the Directors of the Poor, but by the ladies representing the Children's Aid Societies throughout the State. There were present at the meeting representatives from ten district and county almshouses in the western part of the State, which includes all the district almshouses that are in the territory covered by the proposed institute, except four.

Referring to the Report of your Board, it appears that there were, on September 30th, 1892, one hundred and eleven (111) children in the Elwyn Institute from the district to be covered by the new institute, and eighty-two, (82), or seventy-four (74) per cent. of them were supported there by the districts represented at the Williamsport meeting, Allegheny county alone supporting thirty-six children, or 32 per cent.

Allegheny county, and the counties immediately adjoining it—Beaver, Butler, Washington and Westmoreland—now support in the Elwyn Institution, forty-nine (49) children, or forty-four (44),

per cent. of the one hundred and eleven children from the district, as above.

It is safe to say that forty-four (44) per cent. of new, or additional, applications for admission to the new institute, will come from Allegheny county, and the immediately adjacent territory.

From this you will see that representatives from the larger number of children who are now supported at Elwyn, who will have to be removed to and cared for at the new institute, protest against the site selected, and we think you will agree with us that some consideration should be paid to the request of such an unanimous protest as this.

In our judgment, the institute should be located at a point where it can be most conveniently reached by the largest number of officials with whom they will have business, at the least inconvenience and expense. To do this, it should be located at a point somewhere near the center of population, and the site selected in Venango county does not meet these requirements.

To have the institute located at Venango will require a considerably increased expenditure in the way of transportation and other expenses from the territory supplying the larger number of children, and we think that in this case the wish of the majority should be well considered, and everything else being equal, should have the preference. In other words, that the territory supplying the larger number of children should not be compelled to have its children transported some hundred miles or more, for care and maintenance, while the smaller number of children are cared for practically at home.

We feel satisfied that by a careful and businesslike method of investigation, a proper site can be secured within a reasonable distance of the city of Pittsburgh, that will in every way meet the requirements of the Institute, as provided for by Act of Assembly, and at the same time accommodate the greatest number at the least expense, and until we are satisfied that such an investigation has been conducted, we must respectfully ask that you defer any approval of the site selected in Venango County.



You are perhaps aware that this Act of Assembly is the outgrowth of the meeting of our Association, held at Erie in 1892, and naturally we feel quite an interest in having the site selected, a suitable one.

The original Act provided that the territory should comprise what is known as the "Warren" and "Dixmont Hospital" districts, and to which, it was thought, could be added the counties of Blair, Clearfield and Bedford, making practically a straight line north and south through the State.

The Blair, Bedford and Clearfield county authorities were present at the Williamsport meeting, and join with the Western Pennsylvania representatives in protesting against the Venango county site.

These three counties are now supporting at Elwyn fifteen (15) children, and adding these would make one hundred and twenty-six (126) children from the district tributary to the new institution.

Very respectfully yours,

J. SHARP WILSON,

J. D. CARR,

ROBT. D. MCGONNIGLE,

*Committee.*

## LAKE SHORE & MICHIGAN SOUTHERN RY.

### OIL CITY BRANCH.

(Central Time.)

P. M.	A. M.		A. M.	P. M.
1.05	8.52	Stoneboro,	12.37	6.50
1.08	8.55	Sandy Lake,	12.33	6.45
1.21	9.07	Raymilton,	12.21	6.32
1.32	9.16	Polk,	12.12	6.21
1.39	9.22	Niles,	.....	6.14
1.56	9.37	Franklin.	11.53	6.00

WESTERN NEW YORK & PENNSYLVANIA R. R.  
PITTSBURGH DIVISION.

(Central Time.)

P. M.							
3.45	ACC.	ACC.	lve.	Oil City,	arr.	12.08	ACC.
4.15	NOON.	A. M.		Franklin,		11.42	NOON.
5.02	12.50	6.58		Stoneboro,		11.07	12.30
5.23	1.10	7.18		Jackson Center,	G	12.09	5.54
5.39	1.23	7.32		Mercer,		10.39	11.55
6.08	1.47	8.00		Neshannock Falls,	.....	11.27	5.08
6.11	1.50	8.03		Wilmington,		10.15	11.24
6.30	2.10	8.23		New Castle,		9.58	11.05
			ar.	W. New Castle	lv.		4.45

[From the Pittsburgh Commercial-Gazette, Dec. 18th, 1893.]

A PROTEST FILED AGAINST THE LOCATION FOR  
THE HOME FOR FEEBLE-MINDED.

PATTISON IS REBUKED, AND A CHANGE RECOMMENDED IN  
THE BOARD OF CHARITIES.—LEGISLATIVE INVESTIGATION  
OF THE ACTS OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION WILL BE  
ASKED FOR.—POLK IS A VERY INCONVENIENT PLACE.—  
COMMISSIONERS WERE INCOMPETENT AND NEVER CON-  
SIDERED OTHER SITES.—PREJUDICED FROM THE START.  
—UNWISE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC MONEY.

Trouble is brewing for the Democratic commission appointed by the governor to select a site for the Western Pennsylvania Institution for the Feeble-Minded, and the next legislature will probably have a job of investigating the selection of the site at Polk, with a chance to make some interesting disclosures.

The first move against the selection of the commission was made by a committee appointed at the annual convention of the Association of Directors of the Poor of the State. This committee, composed of J.

Sharp Wilson, of Uniontown, J. D. Carr, of Beaver, and Robert D. McGonnigle, of Allegheny, filed a formal protest with the Board of Public Charities against the acceptance of the site selected, which was published in the *Commercial-Gazette* at the time. In that report, the committee set forth the reasons why Polk was an inconvenient and improper location for the institution. The Board of Public Charities, however, was forestalled by Gov. Pattison, who approved the report of the commissioners appointed by him before submitting it to the Board for its approval, which it could not withhold without extreme discourtesy to the governor, by whom the Board is also appointed.

The committee has now prepared a report which will be at once mailed to members of the Association of Directors of the Poor—which report is given below—and it is anticipated that organization at its annual convention next October will recommend a legislative investigation of the whole matter.

#### COMPLETE CHANGE WANTED.

Incidentally the governor's action in this case has aroused all the advocates of a different system of supervision of the public charities, and there is an indication in the report of this committee that the Association it represents will recommend some change in the Board of Public Charities. Whether it will advocate the creation of a department of charities or only a change in the powers of the Board can only be conjectured. But it is known the Western members are all very indignant over the selection of the Polk site.

Hardly anyone in the whole Western district is satisfied. Somerset, Westmoreland, Fayette, Washington, Greene, Beaver, Lawrence, Butler, Mercer, Crawford, Erie, Armstrong and Indiana counties are all dissatisfied. Venango, of course, is pleased, and Warren having secured the Northwestern Asylum for the Insane is not in a position to say much about the matter. McKean, Forest, Clarion and Clearfield have not been heard from, but the two last named are strongly Democratic and likely to swallow anything given them by a Democratic executive, from a "feeble-minded" commission to a veto of a local appropriation.

Some ugly charges and insinuations have been made concerning the commission which selected the Polk site by persons outside the Association of Poor Directors, and these may take form in the demand for an investigation. They will be investigated privately and if well founded will certainly be brought to the attention of the legislature. The Association of Poor Directors charge nothing but incompetency and unfitness on the part of the commission, composed as it was of gentlemen who never had any experience or knowledge of the needs for or of such an institution as the one proposed.

## BOARD OF PUBLIC CHARITIES.

From another source it is learned a bill will be presented to the next legislature for the creation of a department of public charities on a basis equal to the department of internal affairs. The main question in the consideration of such a bill will be that of expense. The State charities can not be put under proper supervision by a department without a large expenditure of money, equal at least to the internal affairs department, while the appropriation for the present Board is only \$30,000 for two years. Five times that amount, at least, would be necessary for a department such as is contemplated.

Others favor the continuance of the Board with greatly enlarged powers and with more liberal appropriations for various purposes. The Board of Public Charities is now purely advisory and without any executive power whatever. In the case of the report of the commission under discussion even its advisory power was practically vetoed by Gov. Pattison in advance, probably because he had information that the protests were being filed with the Board and its action might be adverse to the incompetent commission appointed by him.

Such a work as the selection of a site for an institution like the one in question could have been performed much better by the Board of Public Charities itself. Being a non-partisan Board and composed of men who have given the care of State wards attention and thought, the Board would have been free from political influences and competent as well to judge of the merits of various sites. To cover such cases and others equally important it is proposed either to abolish the Board of Charities and to create a department or to greatly enlarge the powers of the Board and provide for its better compensation that it may be unnecessary to have special commissions appointed to select sites for political or other reasons foreign to the purposes of the institutions to be established.







